

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News.....	273
Leading Articles:—	
The Government of China	274
The Balkans	274
The Powers and Chinese Reformers.....	275
The Crown Agents' Office	275
Railway Construction by Crown Agents.....	276
Random Reflections.....	276
Hongkong News	277
Cable Station Looted	277
Hongkong Legislative Council	278
Sanitary Board	279
Supreme Court	280
Sailors' and Soldiers' Home	281
Callous Chinese Boatman	281
Post Office Prosecution	281
Hongkong Perjury Case	282
Local Sport	282
Philippine Poll Tax	282
Company Reports:—	
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited.....	283
Yang-Tze Insurance Association, Limited	283
Company Meeting:—	
Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Co., Ltd.....	283
A Distinguished Visitor	283
Volunteer Inspection	284
Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association	284
Race Pony Attacked by a Bull-Dog	284
Customs Returns for 1908	284
Railway Construction in Crown Colonies	285
Japan Notes	286
Triple Bill at the Theatre	286
Far Eastern Telegrams	287
Accident to the s.s. "Kutang"	287
A Trade Mark Case	288
Shanghai Trade.....	288
Commercial	290
Shipping	292

BIRTHS.

On March 3rd, at Dundee, Scotland, the wife of the late JOHN A. ROSS, of the Chartered Bank, of a son.

On March 24th, at Shanghai, the wife of A. L. BLECHYNDEN, of a son.

At the Soldiers' Club, Queen's Road, on the 28th March, the wife of H. HORLEY, Civil Accountant, Army Service Corps, of a son.

DEATHS.

On March 23rd, at the Shanghai General Hospital, FREDERIC CHARLTON JONES, aged 50 years.

On the 27th March, MELETINA MARIA OLIVEIRA, the dearly beloved wife of J. M. Eça da Silva.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 19A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The English Mail of the 5th March, and the parcel mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 24th February, and for despatch overland on the 3rd March arrived per s.s. *Devanha* on the 31st ultimo.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Society in the Philippines is discussing the dance halls which are said to be menaces to virtue.

We note the following telegram from Tokyo, in a Seoul contemporary:—The Emperor of China has sent the Second Class Order of the Teutang to H.E. Prince Ito as a token of his thanks for services rendered by the latter in connection with the drafting of the Chinese Constitution.

The British Cigarette Company of Shanghai has been prosecuted on three charges brought by Mr. Jonas in respect of the alleged infringement of the Merchandise Marks Act on "Atlas," "Autocar" and "Drumhead" Cigarettes. The first charge was found proved and a fine of £10 imposed, while the other two charges were dismissed.

According to the *Cablenews-American*, Pedro Paterno's bill for the importation of Chinese labour into Philippine Islands has received the support of the members of the municipal council of Arayat, Pampanga, which is one of the first to respond to the requests of the author of the bill for the universal support of his measure. The bill does not find general favour.

Quite an imposing little ceremony took place on the 19th ult. near Karenko, North Formosa, when 525 male and 526 female aborigines surrendered themselves into the hands of the Japanese. Pledges were exacted from them that they would induce others of their compatriots to give themselves up; and on this condition the captives were then allowed to return to their old villages.

Mr. E. Carlton Baker, late American Vice-Consul at Foochow, has passed his examination, at Washington, for promotion in the Consular Service. He has been appointed to the Department of State, in Washington, in the "Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs," on account of his familiarity with the customs of the people and business conditions of the countries with which this Department deals.

A telegram from Tsinanfu to the *N.-C. Daily News* states that Sir J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Commissioner at Weihaiwei, who is paying a visit to H. E. Yuan Shu-hsun, Governor of Shantung, was entertained on the 20th inst. by the highest officials. Half a dozen foreigners were present. Sir Stewart Lockhart was accompanied by Mr. R. F. Johnston, the District Officer at Weihaiwei.

The report of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Company states that, including £13,000 brought forward, the profit for the year ended Dec. 31 last amounts to £119,312. After allowing £67,870 for depreciation of steamers, and paying directors' fees, &c., there is a balance of £41,039. It is proposed to pay dividends of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares and on the ordinary "B" shares, and to carry forward £14,262.

We learn from a letter in *The Times* that the need for Western teachers—especially medical teachers—in China has for some time past been engaging the earnest attention of many Englishmen, who have formed a committee—China Emergency Committee—for the purpose of doing something to meet it. Sir Robert Hart is president of the committee, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Lord Chief Justice, and the Vice-Chancellors of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Universities, and many other distinguished men are amongst its vice-presidents and members. The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. Francis Wm. Fox.

We understand that C. J. Marchant, the man who was recently extradited to Manila on a charge of embezzlement, has been discharged and that he intends to proceed against his prosecutor in the Philippines to recover damages.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in a letter to a correspondent dated February 18th said he could not undertake to discuss the question of the policy which His Majesty's Government should pursue with regard to Weihaiwei, and Lord Crewe was unable to admit the justice of the criticism that the Protectorate is neglected by the Imperial Authorities and that the uncertainty as to the future effectually stops private enterprise from developing. The Colonial Secretary could hardly be expected to admit as much, but it is nevertheless palpably true.

Interest in the practically unknown Pratas islands is by no means abated, though it is tolerably certain that the differences between China and Japan will be amicably settled. The island on which Japanese have been settled for some eighteen months is about 170 miles south east of Hongkong. It is barely two miles long and about three quarters of a mile broad, rises about forty feet above water and is really nothing more than a sandy bed on a foundation of coral. Coral is found all round the lagoon and the approaches to the island, which have not been surveyed for about forty or fifty years are dangerous to navigation. When the Chinese cruiser *Kenpan* proceeded there with Commodore Lin and Captain Wu, it was discovered that there were about 150 Japanese on the island. They had made a track across the island, had lighters at work, and also had a steam launch. The Japanese were apparently finding their undertaking very remunerative.

It is satisfactory to know, says a London contemporary, that practically the whole of the plant for the new Keihan Electric Railway has been ordered in Great Britain. This company, which was floated last year with a capital of seven million yen, is building the third and longest electric railway in Japan. Its object is to link the former capital of the country, Kyoto, with Osaka, the great industrial centre which has often been called the "Manchester of Japan." The total length of the new line is thirty miles, with a double track throughout its entire length, and the generating plant has a total power of 2550 k.w., made up of three 850 k.w. turbo-generator sets. The electrical work is being done by Messrs. Dick, Kerr, and Co., the turbines by Messrs. Williams and Robinson, and the boilers by Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox. The railway carriages are being constructed in Japan. A director of the company, Mr. Saburi, after placing the orders for the machinery, has recently returned to Japan leaving Mr. Baba, the Japanese electrical consulting engineer, to see to the details of the order. Mr. H. S. Bickerton Brindley, of Queen Anne's Chambers, is the European consultant and inspecting engineer to this company. Though the standard gauge of the steam railways throughout Japan is 3ft. 6in., it is a significant fact that this line is to be built to the 4ft. 8½in. gauge, but in spite of this fact it is contemplated that the full capacity of the new railway will be required at the outset, although there is an ordinary railway between these two centres. The population of Osaka is nearly two millions, and that of Kyoto nearly half a million.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA.

(Daily Press, March 29th.)

While the large majority of those who may be taken as authorities with respect to Far Eastern matters are of opinion that representative institutions would prove unsuitable to India, a contrary opinion prevails with regard to China. As respects India, it is generally accepted that constitutional government would not be advantageous upon the somewhat general ground that government by the people is not in accordance with "Oriental" ideas—and it would seem at first sight that, if this argument is good as to India, it ought to be taken as good also with regard to China, which is certainly an Oriental country, if any country is entitled to be so designated. The term "Oriental" is, of course, a very wide and it is often used without due consideration of the difference which may exist between nations who are Oriental as compared with western standards, but who are so in very varied degrees. Generally speaking, the idea of Orientalism is that of being governed or governable in a more or less despotic manner—in having a strong traditional respect for personal authority, and a want of appreciation of power as derived from the people at large and exercised on their behalf. It is concluded by those acquainted with the state of feeling in India that, at all events at the present time, the old traditions which make the people disposed to look to personal authority as the essential element in government is so strong that an attempt to introduce an administration upon a representative basis could not be successful and probably upon the whole this view of the subject is correct. At the same time steps have been taken to secure a more definite representation of the people in the Supreme Council, and this would appear to be acceptable to those who have been agitating for a wider recognition of the popular voice in the government of the country.

It might be thought that those who desire an improvement in the internal government of China would be content with seeing her accept some similar measures to those which have been adopted in India in regard to the same question—but, with respect to China, the opinion seems to have gained ground, not only among Europeans, but among some of the more advanced Chinese statesmen themselves, that what would be suited to the Chinese nation, is a system of constitutional government in which the wishes of the people would be duly consulted and properly respected. If we are to believe the assurances made at Peking, such a system is to be introduced some nine years hence. How far this promise can be relied upon is, of course, a matter of opinion. Upon this point, it is probable that Chinese statesmen themselves are as yet undecided. While some of them can see the advantages that would be gained by popular support the most progressive may have some doubt as to how far such support can be obtained with safety to the Imperial or central authority—the preservation of which they naturally regard as of the first importance. What the Peking authorities will most probably do is to endeavour to compromise matters in some way that will meet half way the difficulty with which they have to deal, and no doubt many of them hope that long before the expiration of the nine years, some means short of actual popular representation may be found to appease the aspirations of the people in this direction. That the Chinese differ from the generality of Eastern nations, in having much in the

that suits them for something in the form of representative institutions, there can be very little doubt. They have the great essential of administrative instinct which is shown in connection with their guilds and other organisation, and there is no question also that they possess practical common sense—the "reasonableness" recently referred to by Sir ROBERT HART—which is of all things the most valuable in the government of a nation as well as in less important matters. On the other hand, it cannot be overlooked that in another direction they are certainly of the traditional "Oriental" type—possessing an almost exaggerated respect for personal authority, and traditional ideas—that the larger questions of governments can be dealt with only by unrestrained or autocratic authority. To effect a change in the existing state of matters, it is necessary that these two discordant elements should be in some way reconciled; and this is the problem which the Peking authorities will have to solve within the next nine years, if the promise which has been made is to be carried out. It is quite possible that it may be found, in practically dealing with the subject, that it will be difficult to grant a constitution to China in the fullest sense of the word even when the nine years have expired; but if the authorities are in earnest in the matter, there should not be any insuperable obstacles against the introduction of a measure of reform which will tend in this direction—and which in the course of time, will lead to constitutional government in accordance with the wants of the country. This would be the true policy for the Government to adopt; and, although there are some reactionary signs which do not look promising, it may be hoped that these will be overcome, and that it may be possible to introduce the looked for new system by degrees, if it cannot be adopted in the rapid manner which has been attempted in some other countries why by no means encouraging results. The nation, as well as the official, has to be educated up to the change. Much is being done in the former direction by the force of social change, but it will require no little skill to blend the new ideas with the old traditions of government in China. In the meantime the Peking Authorities might possibly take a lesson from what has been done in India, and, without changing the existing form of government, might gradually introduce a more representative element into the chief councils of the nation. This would have the effect of satisfying to some extent the aspirations of those who are in favour of popular government; and would prepare the way to the introduction of a representative system, should such prove desirable at a future time.

THE BALKANS.

(Daily Press, March 30th.)

Few people in Europe will be found to eulogise as a type of wisdom or political sagacity King PETER of Serbia, or his precious son and heir Prince GEORGE. Almost as few will be found to laud the political insight of the Archduke FERDINAND OF ESTE, who has been trying his 'prentice hand in guiding the destinies of Austria, while with regard to the Imperial Minister, Baron von Aehrenthal he has been sailing as close to the wind as was possible in the case of a minister high in the confidence of his Sovereign. However in the end affairs may turn out, it is at least certain that the four between them have been keeping Europe in a state of flurry and excitement during the last six months; yet

for what cause neither themselves nor any one else have been able to show any justification whatever. Austria and Serbia have been in fact, for the last six or eight months engaged in a game of growling and showing their teeth at one another across the River Danube; yet when either has been asked the foundation of all the excitement, and a civil request made to formulate the real trouble at the bottom of all, neither has been able to name a single item wherein it had been wronged by the other. It can hardly be said that Germany either has given assurances that her motives are of any higher inspiration; when asked by the other Powers to use her influence to induce one or the other of the irreconcilables to reason, or at least to state her desires, Germany has on each occasion shrugged her shoulders and announced her intention of allowing Austria to go her own gait without interference. Now if this proceeded from a genuine respect for the House of Austria, and could be taken as the homage of one wise man to another, however much we might cavil at its seeming weakness, we could hold it up to reprobation, but this explanation hardly consorts with the indications of the case.

Germany is quite aware that one of the chief difficulties in the way of the Dual Monarchy is the attitude of the Slavonic peoples under its rule; Magyar and German pretty well understand one another, and both are fully conscious that any rupture of the common bond of self interest which holds them together would mean the destruction of both. They can safely growl at one another betimes, secure in the reflection that after all self-interest is a stronger ground of union than sentiment; but with her Slavonic subjects the case is far otherwise. They have not risen to the sense of common interest, or common nationality, and to their minds, tickled with dreams of an impossible Pan Slavism, every degradation to Austria seems a victory for the other. This is the ever present danger that the Dual Monarchy has to face, but to which she is momentarily quite oblivious. King PETER KARAGEORGEWITCH may to onlookers seem but flimsy stuff out of which to make a hero, but he is the best at the moment available. It is not a matter of everyday experience that a hero should come on the scene just when and how a people desires him, but the unwise policy of Austria is going far to make King PETER the hero of the day, and Germany by suggestion rather than by open advice is doing her best to blow up the bubble. Naturally none of the Powers cares to tell Austria straight out the true position of affairs; too candid friends are apt to meet with unpleasant rebuffs when their advice becomes too particular; but Europe sees that a war rashly commenced between Austria and Serbia would not unlikely fan into a flame the general nascent antipathy between Teuton and Slav, and as each mutually interpenetrates districts where the other predominates, a wasteful and mutually destructive civil war could be the only logical result. An eventual war between Germany and Russia on racial grounds would be a thing of horror untold; and would not impossibly destroy the boasted civilisation of Europe, or leave the road open to another Asiatic advance and with a view of these possibilities, the common sense of Europe has been striving to bring about a settlement in the Balkan States which offer some chance of permanency.

Every one engaged feels that, brought down to the level of common sense, there is positively nothing worth quarrelling about, yet false pride or silly sentiment interferes

whenever matters are brought to a point; and unfortunately hitherto it has been the case that Austria has been in each instance the chief offender. Austria, of course, stands most to lose in the case of a conflict; and it is quite possible that feeling this to be the case she has become the more rigid in refusing all accommodation. Germany has probably more influence with the Imperial House of the Hapsburgs than all the other Governments in Europe, and there is little doubt that a word of caution, which from the other Powers would be looked upon as an impertinence, from Germany would be accepted in a friendly spirit. The word, however, does not come, but instead tirade about susceptibilities, and a hint that she does not like to place herself at cross purposes with her ally; consequently the atmosphere, which but a couple of weeks ago was undoubtedly brightening, since has been rendered more murky than ever, but the telegram we publish this morning happily gives the best promise we have yet had of a settlement of this protracted quarrel.

THE POWERS AND CHINESE REFORMERS.

(Daily Press, March 31st.)

There is no position which is more difficult to maintain diplomatically than one of absolute neutrality and complete non-intervention. At first blush this may appear to be an easy matter. It would seem that when any question of internal administration arises in any given nation, outside nations may reasonably content themselves with doing nothing and leaving the nation concerned to settle its own affairs and to work out its own destiny its own way. But, however easy this may appear in theory, it is found to be a very different matter in practice. Recently a complaint was made by a writer who signed himself as a "Chinese Student at Cambridge" of the inconsistency of Foreign nations in their dealings with China in this respect. He complained that while Europeans were constantly pointing out the defects of the system of government existing in China, whenever the people in China took matters into their own hands, and endeavoured by threatened revolt or more severe revolutionary methods, to bring about a change, foreign nations invariably intervened, and supported the existing Government in putting down the threatened disturbance. That this statement is true, it is impossible to deny. From the time of the Tai Ping rebellion to the present day, the Peking Government have always received the support, moral if not actually material, of foreign nations and especially of Great Britain, in suppressing opposition to the existing order of things—bad though that state of matters may have been. Upon abstract grounds, this line of policy certainly seems open to the strictures which the writer above referred to cast upon it. Why, it may fairly be asked, if the Chinese are disposed to rise against an oppressive Government and to insist upon reforms, should European nations support a *status quo* which they have constantly denounced as unsatisfactory—to put it at its mildest? Would it not be more consistent for them to leave China to work out its own destiny as would be done with respect to any other nation? This is in effect the question which the Cambridge Chinaman propounds, and he is quite certain that, if left alone, China would work out her reformation—by revolution if it cannot be accomplished in any other way.

That European nations have in more than one instance afforded great aid to the Peking Government in suppressing revolts, is not, however, so inconsistent as those who are inclined to drastic measures are disposed to believe. The end that is hoped for by them is the establishment of a form of government in China which will provide justice and security to the people generally, and thus secure the stability of an Empire with which they have very large commercial and political interests. If revolts and revolutionary movements in China did not interfere with the safety and prosperity of the large number of Europeans whose fortunes are now embarked in the country, such risings would be no affair of theirs. Unfortunately, however, when disturbances arise in China, both the lives and the property of Europeans are placed in the greatest jeopardy; and thus a state of affairs arises in which it is impossible to sit still and allow events to take their course. Of this, the Peking Government is fully aware, and they usually manage with great skill, to get assistance from foreign nations whenever a critical moment arrives, and after the immediate trouble has been put an end to, affairs go on, apparently at least, much as they were before.

This line of action is certainly open to objection on the ground of consistency; but logical consistency is not the essence of foreign policy. As MACAULAY observed, in speaking of the defects observable among Ecclesiastics in matters of practical government, the essence of Theology is logic; but the essence of politics is compromise. Whether logically consistent or not, it is, after all, not an unsound position for European nations to adopt, to say "we will do all we can by our influence and advice to bring about an improvement in the internal government of China, as our commercial and political interests are largely concerned in this; but we are not able to sit still when authority is actively defied, revolt broken out or revolution threatened. Some other means than these must be found if they are to have our support." Such a position, it cannot be denied, by temperate people, is at all events a sound one, and is practically that which has been adopted by foreign nations hitherto and is likely to be continued in the future. So far as the past is concerned, it has certainly not proved so ineffectual, as might be thought. There has been some progress in China, though it has been slow, and it would be unwise, at the present time, to conclude that the promises of constitutional reform which have been definitely made will be absolutely ignored. It is quite possible that the reactionary element at the capital will have to be reckoned with; and that the reforms that are promised will not be all that could be hoped for; but if some reasonable form of representative or even partially representative government be established, more than half the difficulties under which China has so long laboured, will come to an end.

THE CROWN AGENTS' OFFICE.

(Daily Press, April 1st.)

Twelve months ago or more the Imperial Government appointed a Committee to inquire into "the conditions of tenure, the scale of payment of salaries and pensions, and how far arrangements in the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies are in accord, or can be brought into harmony with the principles governing the Civil Service." In order to enable the Committee to decide whether changes were required or not, it became necessary for them to have a general survey of what work is done and

how it is done. Evidence was given before the committee by witnesses possessing either special colonial experience or a particular knowledge of transactions with the Crown Agents, and although a certain amount of the evidence appears to be outside the proper subject of the enquiry, this, as the Committee says, is not on the whole to be regretted. The Committee says the general effect of this evidence has been to show that "while there is in the Colonies in many quarters a certain simmering of discontent with the methods of the Crown Agents, it is due rather to want of touch between them and the Colonial Governments, to some want of elasticity on the part of officials claiming to occupy a quasi-independent position, or to personal considerations, but not to a failure in the work of the office which appears to be on the whole well done, and to be clear from all suspicion of corruption." So little is generally known with regard to the Crown Agents Office that a few particulars may be found interesting. The Crown Agents Office acts for all the Colonies twenty-four in number, not possessing responsible government, for the eleven British Protectorates and for Zanzibar, and serves as the general agency in Great Britain for all these countries. It purchases and sends out the materials and goods of all kinds which are required by the Colonial Governments from the United Kingdom or Europe, it issues their public loans, keeps the registers of their stock, pays the interest and invests the sinking funds, and transacts all kinds of miscellaneous financial business including the payment of salaries to Colonial Officials on leave, and the payment of pensions where the recipients live in the United Kingdom or Europe. Moreover, it acts as the channel of communication between Colonial Governments and their Consulting Engineers in the United Kingdom. The Crown Agents, three in number, are selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and hold office during the pleasure of the Crown. Their salaries are fixed by the Secretary of State while those of the Staff numbering about 225 persons, have been left to the discretion of the Crown Agents, though maximum lump sums are allocated, and a maximum rate of salary is fixed by the Crown; periodic statements have to be rendered to the Colonial Office showing the actual salaries paid to the established officers.

This, as many of our readers know, is not the first time that the way the Crown Agents Office does its work has been inquired into. There was a Local Committee of Inquiry into the Stores Department in Ceylon in 1878; and a similar committee in Hongkong in 1902, and the result in each case—according to Sir E. BLAKE, the Senior Crown Agent—was that the work of the office was found to be well done, and that there was practically nothing requiring alteration. Consequently when Lord ELGIN acceded to the demand for an inter-departmental committee to conduct an inquiry into the organisation of the Office before any *prima facie* case for inquiry had been made out, the Crown Agents naturally protested, and declared that "some person or persons who have a personal grievance against the Crown Agents are almost always at the bottom of agitations against us." The Secretary of State, however, did not feel that he could resist the demand, and the inquiry has been held with results which on the one hand must be gratifying to the Crown Agents, and on the other very satisfactory to the Colonies who are interested in knowing not only that on the whole the work of the Crown Agents Office appears to be well done, and free from the

suspicion of corruption, but that the Committee has recognised that the agitation against the Office has not been entirely unjustified. The most fruitful cause of discontent the Committee reports, has been the existence of the rule laid down in the Colonial Regulations that the product or manufacture of the United Kingdom or of Europe, which are required by the Government of a Crown Colony should be obtained through the Crown Agents' Office. This rule the Committee considers to be to the general advantage of the Crown Colonies; but the Committee recommend that wherever in any Colony firms exist able to produce the articles required or to carry out any needed works and the Colony feels able to arrange for their adequate inspection such firms should be given opportunities of tendering on the same conditions as home firms. An announcement that this recommendation had been adopted would be welcomed in every Colony. It is a commonly accepted notion that whatever is obtained through the Crown Agents costs the Government very much more than if it had been obtained without their assistance; but in glancing through the portly volume of evidence we do not notice that this was conclusively established by evidence. Sir HENRY BLAKE, who said his experience with Crown Agents had been "perfectly satisfactory," made an indirect reference to the subject of cost when he said that the fact of there being a large reserve arising from commissions made it evident that the Crown Agents were charging too much commission. "I think it would be received with great gratitude, by the Crown Colonies," SIR HENRY said, "if you were able to announce that having regard to the volume of business you find that the Crown Agent is able to do his business for a smaller percentage." But that announcement does not find a place in the Report. The Committee, however, reports that the present arrangements for shipping appear to them to be not only "unduly expensive," but that they must lead to delay and reduplication of work and they therefore recommend that the shipping work hitherto performed, for the Crown Agents of Messrs. J. and A. B. FREELAND, should in future be carried out by a Department of the Crown Agents. Apart from these recommendations the only other suggestion we need notice is one that a small bureau should be established in the Department through which officials and other persons connected with the Colonies visiting England could get into better touch with the Crown Agents and obtain the benefit of their good offices. Lastly, the Committee recommend that information regarding the revenue and expenditure of the Crown Agents' Office, and the salaries paid, should be published annually, and, of course, communicated to the Colonial Governments. They further suggest that Parliament should be given a better opportunity than exists at present for reviewing the operations of the Office. These are all very modest but eminently reasonable recommendations, and their adoption would certainly tend to give the Colonies a confidence in the system which is now generally lacking.

The bronze statue of the Princess of Wales, executed by Mr. Geo. E. Wade, to the order of Mr. H. N. Mody, has been brought to Hongkong in the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Nubia* which arrived on Saturday. We learn from a London correspondent who saw it before it was packed that the statue is an excellent likeness of Her Royal Highness, and is the first statue cast of the Princess.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION BY CROWN AGENTS.

(Daily Press, 2nd April.)

Those who have read the evidence on railway construction in Crown Colonies (printed in the *Daily Press* yesterday) which Sir FRANK SWETTENHAM gave before the Committee appointed to inquire into the organisation of the Crown Agents' Office cannot have failed to notice how applicable are many of his statements to the little experience of railway construction that we in this Colony have so far had. Giving the experience of the Singapore railway, the ex-Governor of the Straits Settlements said the line took more than twice as long to construct as it ought to have done; it cost about twice the original estimate, and the work was not well done, for a bridge subsequently tumbled down and an embankment gave way. Everybody, Sir FRANK added, became a critic of the railway, so that at last the engineer got so tired of it all that, mainly through the representations of the Government, when it was nearly completed, he went away. Now, it is interesting to compare the experience of Hongkong with this statement of the experience of Singapore. When in 1905 it was decided to build the Kowloon railway by means of a loan, the Crown Agents sent out a capable engineer to make a preliminary survey on which they based a preliminary estimate. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, in his great anxiety to push forward the construction of the line with the utmost possible dispatch, instructed the Public Works Department to begin work in November 1905. Meanwhile the Crown Agents had appointed a Chief Resident Engineer, and the first thing that gentleman did when he came to the Colony in March 1906 was to find fault with the survey that had been made and to alter the alignment to such an extent as to render practically useless what work the Public Works Department had already done at a cost of between twenty and thirty thousand dollars. The original estimate for these twenty-two miles of railway was £550,000, but it is now known that the actual cost will not fall many pounds short of a million sterling. So that this Colony's experience agrees so far with that of Singapore in that (1) the line will take about twice as long to complete as it was at first expected to take; and (2) the line will cost about twice the original estimate. These facts have been already ascertained. Whether the parallel might be further drawn we are not in a position to say, but we may here mention that among other questions asked in a letter which reached us quite recently was one as to whether it is a fact that bad cracks are being found in the bridges, due to faulty foundations. When His Excellency the Governor about a year ago gave in the Legislative Council a history of the railway he mentioned that the Home Government in adopting the departmental system of construction through the medium of the Crown Agents, claims that it saves contractors' profits; that alterations which further examination of the country or enlarged or altered views may render necessary, can at any time be made without liability to contractors which would be incurred if the contract had already been signed. It gives more direct supervision to the Government and gives more discretion as to change. These, said the Governor, are great advantages. No doubt they are, but the point is whether the advantages are as great as they might be if the local Government were left to construct the line. The usual objection to such a course is that the

local officials have not had as a rule any experience of building railways, but as Sir FRANK SWETTENHAM told the Committee, it is surely just as easy for the Colony to appoint a chief engineer as it is for the Consulting Engineers. Under the present system the Consulting Engineers who are nominally the Government's technical advisers are actually the constructors of the railway; and the local Government, which pays the bill, has no effective control over the expenditure. His Excellency, the Governor himself admitted that the local Government is not in close touch with the consulting engineers and does not correspond directly with them. Mr. HARRIS, one of the members of the Committee which inquired into the organisation of the Crown Agents' Office, said he had had some little experience of the Colonial Office and he could not help thinking that Sir FRANK SWETTENHAM was telling the Committee of a system which was an anomaly. Mr. HARRIS should therefore be interested to learn that the system which he describes as an anomaly is the system under which the British section of the Kowloon-Canton railway is being constructed at the present time with results, in some respects at least analogous to those of the Singapore railway, and it is rather surprising to find no condemnation of this anomalous system in the Report of the Committee. The incredulity with which Sir FRANK SWETTENHAM's statements were received by members of Committee closely associated with the Colonial Office certainly justified expectation of a pointed reference to the subject in the Report.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Yes, there is no doubt about it. The city is quieter and duller. The streets have not that particular animation given by Jack ashore, and already we miss the presence of the many bluff Americans who enlivened Hongkong for the past fortnight. Apparently they enjoyed their stay, the result of which is an improvement of the good relations existing between the two great Anglo-Saxon races.

If the Americans remained here long they would spoil all our ricksha and chair coolies by their generosity. A dollar for a ride from the bottom of Garden Road to the Peak Tramway Station represents a scale of remuneration which we would not care to see becoming general though sailors were not the only ones to be had by the wily chair bearers. One dear old lady who was carried a similarly short distance sweetly paid the first man fifty cents and rewarded the second man in like manner to his great surprise and satisfaction. Another American rode in a ricksha from the Hongkong Hotel to the Telegraph office and paid the coolie twenty cents. The latter created a "bobbey" and explained that his was a "first class ricksha." The argument appealed to the visitor who handed over the additional twenty cents. Doubtless he said things when he learned later how he had been done. It certainly gives point to the statement that the American visitors spend their money freely.

The sports arranged by the Entertainment Committee must be regarded as very satisfactory. They brought men together in friendly rivalry and did much to promote a good understanding between the men of both countries. Perhaps the most satisfactory feature from our point of view is that our men did so well in all the contests, and the reflection is all the more comforting at a time when we hear so much talk of racial decadence. The tugs-of-war were great feats of strength, and endurance, as well as interesting demonstrations of unity of action, and the teams who participated in the final struggle were worthy representatives of their respective countries. The Americans were strong, hefty

men but I don't think they knew so much of the art of pulling together as did the sturdy artillerymen.

The American influence did not depart with the fleet on Saturday. Bishop Brent of the Philippines, who was the Chairman of the Opium Conference, held forth in the Cathedral yesterday, and his words were listened to with no little attention and interest.

We are proud of our Volunteers and we don't want to see them dwarfed or have their importance minimised. At their inspection on Saturday it looked as if there were more band than volunteers. Surely this ought not to be:

It is perhaps a rash thing to say, but I believe there are humorists in Scotland. A Highland newspaper which has come into my hand reports a ploughing match at which one of the prizes offered was for the ploughman most determined at ploughing and most determined to avoid matrimonial bliss. Why a man should seek to avoid bliss is rather difficult to appreciate, but I suppose that is the Scotch joke which is not very apparent to those born out of Caledonia.

The Tramway Company, following up the anti-spitting crusade, have become somewhat facetious. The interior of the cars now bears a notice; "Gentlemen will not spit; others must not." It is to be hoped it will be effective.

There is a paper published at Peking in the English language, but I fancy the Editor does not mean exactly what he says when he publishes the following:

THE EMPEROR REMAINS.

The remains of the late Emperor and Empress Dowager has been drawn from the Imperial store, and presented to various officials. The Dalai Lama has also received this favour. The Board of Dependencies has appointed 4 members to proceed to present the remains to the Dalai Lama.

The following passage from a report of the recent meeting of a Siamese railway company is distinctly instructive:

Mr. Leonard: I propose in view of the large number of the shares held by the Privy Purse we put on a man from the R. R. D. who knows something about the management of railways, and I propose Mr. Schnoerr.

The Chairman: Is he a shareholder?

Mr. Leonard: I don't know, but I know if elected he would qualify.

The Chairman: I can't accept that, sir.

Mr. Leonard: I pointed out the very same thing to you at the last meeting in the case of Mr. Tilleke and Dr. Reyter.

The Chairman: Mr. Tilleke was a shareholder because I gave him ten bearer shares downstairs before the meeting began.

Mr. Leonard: That is absolute trickery.

The Chairman: If you never do anything worse than that you will go to heaven in an aeroplane. Why, in the old days I have had to go downstairs and give shares to coolies in order that you might get your dividend, because the shareholders would not come.

Reports of Hongkong company meetings do not afford such interesting reading.

The Japan papers, I notice, are much concerned over the fact that our Chief Justice ordered the ruffians convicted of armed robbery in the Colony at the February Assizes to be flogged. Brutal punishment, the *Chronicle* says, does not cure barbarism; but that is a statement not borne out by experience in Hongkong. The question is one that has engaged public attention on many occasions, notably during the regime of Sir John Pope Hennessy when the community at a great meeting held on the cricket ground passed a resolution with hardly any opposition affirming (1) that life and property had been jeopardised by a policy of undue leniency towards the criminal classes; and (2) that flogging in public had been found the only really deterring punishment and that to its suspension was due the daring boldness which had lately characterised crime. That was thirty years ago and our criminal statistics have greatly improved since then. Flogging is no longer administered in public,

and it is very rare indeed that our Judges order flogging at all. But when we see such a recrudescence of serious crime as that which occurred early in the present year, when nearly the whole of the cases at the first criminal assizes were very bad cases of armed robbery, some punishment likely to have a more deterrent effect than mere imprisonment was clearly called for, and no voice of protest has been heard in the Colony against the floggings awarded by the Chief Justice. On the contrary, the infliction of this punishment has been warmly approved. If a man commits a murder we hang him; and four-and-twenty strokes of "the cat" in addition to a term of imprisonment does not seem to me excessive punishment for the man of murderous intent who narrowly misses committing the capital crime.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The plague return for the week ending 27th March gives a total of five cases, four of which proved fatal. This brings the number from January 1st up to 19 cases and 17 deaths.

Mr. Ho Kom Tong has been appointed a member of the Sanitary Board. He is a prominent Chinese citizen and has identified himself with all good works in the interest of the colony.

On Sunday night three boats of the fleet of the Corinthian Yacht Club which were lying in the Club's anchorage were boarded by thieves, and the greater part of their lead ballast was stolen. The boats were No. 6, No. 9 and the *Spray*.

It is reported that Mr. T. K. Dealy has accepted the position of headmaster of Queen's College, rendered vacant by the retirement of Dr. G. H. Bateson Wright, and that Mr. G. A. Woodcock will succeed Mr. Dealy as second master.

Further official changes took place on April 1st, Mr. J. R. Wood leaving the Magistracy to take up his substantive appointment at the Supreme Court as Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, while Mr. C. D. Melbourne left the Registry of the Supreme Court and returned to his old position as first clerk at the Magistracy.

Mr. E. C. Wilks, having severed his connection with the firm of Wilks and Jack, Limited, announces that he has established himself in the Colony as a Consulting Engineer and Surveyor with an office in York Buildings. Mr. W. C. Jack announces that the management of the firm of Wilks and Jack, Limited, has been taken over by himself.

An interesting speech was delivered by H. E. the Governor at the Legislative Council on the 1st inst, when he indicated the improvements that were being effected at the Observatory. In the Finance Committee an appropriation of \$11,060 was passed for compensation to the 26 opium divan keepers whose divans had been closed under the opium restriction instructions of the Home Government.

It must have occasioned no little surprise when it became public on Tuesday that Mr. G. A. Woodcock, the secretary to the Sanitary Board, but at present acting as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, was not to go back to his old position. The Government letter announcing the change did not indicate what other office Mr. Woodcock was to fill. It merely stated he would be transferred elsewhere. From the proceedings at the meeting of the Sanitary Board it was apparent that the action of the Government did not meet with the approval of the members, as was indicated in Mr. Lau Chu Pak's minute and Mr. Shelton Hooper's brief laudatory reference. Mr. Woodcock as Secretary of the Sanitary Board was certainly all that Mr. Lau Chu Pak said. He was courtesy and consideration personified, and there is no doubt that he helped to clear many misunderstandings, and in scriptural language "to make the rough places smooth." His removal from the place which knew him so long will be a distinct loss to the Sanitary Board, a loss which will be keenly felt by all those whose business brought them in contact with him, and it is questionable if Mr. Woodcock will ever be so well suited as in the office from which he has thus been transferred.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 29 a native who was arrested on the Chinese Recreation Ground was charged with being armed with a knife with intent to commit a felony. He was found guilty, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A native who appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Mar. 29th on a charge of returning from banishment told his Worship that he came back to the Colony to get some clothing he left behind. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and four hours' stocks.

We hear that Mr. Chaloner Grenville Alabaster barrister-at-law, son of the late Sir Chaloner labaster, British Consul-General in Canton, has resigned the Secretaryship of the China Association. He was to be married on the 27th February, and to sail on the 13th March for Hongkong in the P. & O. steamer *Somali*. He intends practising at the Bar in the Colony. Mr. Harold Chatterton Wilcox (formerly partner in Messrs. Turner & Co., Hongkong), has been appointed Acting Secretary to the China Association in London.

On Sunday night the police received a telephone message from Cheungshui, a border village near Samchun, reporting a "hold up" of the police employed on the Canton section of the line. The report, made by Mr. Fraser, the district engineer on the Chinese section, stated that on the night of the 27th instant the railway police were attacked by a band of about eight or nine armed robbers. The police at the time were returning from the village of Lilong, about eleven miles distant, where they had carried a sum of money. Two of the constabulary were wounded, and two were relieved of their rifles. The Police at Cheungshui believe that the robbers have crossed into British territory, but investigations in the territory will be considerably hampered by reason of the fact that the men attacked can give no description of any of the robbers.

CABLE STATION LOOTED.

TELEPHONE SERVICE INTERRUPTED.

A story of the extraordinary impudence of the Chinese thief was told to the Hunghom Police on Sunday. On the night in question a number of natives entered the cable station near the Docks where the four cables belonging respectively to the Military Authorities, the Colonial Government, the Eastern Telegraph Co. and the Telephone Co. are landed. They cut off pieces of the cables and removed certain apparatus which entailed the interruption of the different services. After packing up all the brass and lead in the shed the thieves apparently sat down for a rest after their exertions. A lukong on duty in the vicinity, happening to pass the station at the time, noticed that the door was open, and on looking in saw by the dim light a native smoking a cigarette. His question as to what the man was doing there caused a stampede, all the thieves dashing for the door. The constable held on to one man, and he will probably be charged shortly. The telephone service to Kowloon was interrupted all day yesterday and though the Telephone Company was able to effect temporary repairs to their cable it will probably be a week before the mischief done is completely repaired.

Five Chinese were charged on two counts before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Mar. 30 with breaking and entering a cable station at Hunghom and with stealing telegraph instruments to the value of \$87.20, the property of the Military Authorities; the same to the value of \$53.08 the property of the Hongkong Government; the same to the value of \$74, the property of the Eastern Telegraph Co.; and the same to the value of \$65, the property of the China and Japan Telephone Co.

The case was concluded on Mar. 31st, Four of the accused were found guilty and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and six hours' stocks, while the fifth man was discharged.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 1st inst. in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

H. E. COLONEL DARLING, R.E. (General Officer Commanding).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Sir HENRY BERKELEY, K.C., (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G., (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY, (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. H. A. W. SLADE.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to lay on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 10, 11 and 12, and to move that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

THE OBSERVATORY.

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Gentlemen, with regard to Financial Minute No. 12, you will see that it embodies a resolution by the Council to spend a certain sum for the Observatory. You will recollect that in September last when the Estimates were introduced I promised the Council that I would instruct the Director of the Observatory to visit Manila with a view to comparing our instruments with theirs and in order to get into touch with the Director of the Manila Observatory. Since that date I have been able to inform the Council that by the courtesy of the American Government in the Philippine Islands we hope that a wireless telegraphy station will be established at Santo Domingo da Basco which will be of great value to us, and also that the Admiral commanding the Fleet in these waters has promised that men-of-war cruising in the neighbouring waters shall communicate any observations that may be of use in forecasting storms. I propose to say in connection with this financial minute in explanation to the Council of the visit which has been paid by the Director of our Observatory to Manila that on February 16th, as soon as his annual returns were completed, he started for Manila and remained there until the 23rd February. Every day during his stay he visited the Observatory. I need hardly say that he was received with the utmost courtesy by Father Algué who placed his entire time at his disposal during his residence in the Islands. The Manila Observatory, Mr. Figge informs me, costs about \$145,000 per annum to maintain, and the staff consists of one director, three assistant directors, a secretary and librarian, and ten native observers, calculators, draughtsmen, and mechanics. There are some forty out stations in the archipelago connected with headquarters. Some of them report three times a day, some twice a day, in the ordinary observation hours between six a.m. and seven p.m. Father Algué agreed that the primary object in view for improving the information regarding typhoon warnings is that there should be as many stations as possible and the creation, if possible, of more stations and the more frequent despatch of observations from existing stations. In this connection he promised to send extra observations from other stations in the Philippines whenever the station at Aparri should be interrupted, which unfortunately frequently occurs. He also said he would send any information which might be useful in the determination of the position of typhoon centres. Mr. Figge, on his part, promised to send extra observations from here whenever they might be required by the Manila

Observatory, the Manila Government defraying the cost of transmission. He also promised to send all typhoon warnings, which had hitherto not been done, at the request of Father Algué—that is to say whether they arise in the neighbourhood of the Philippine Islands or not. With regard to the instruments for forecasting storms, the Manila Observatory has two seismographs and a chronometer. The seismographs, Father Algué said, were of some indirect use in the Philippines but he had considerable doubts as to whether they would be of any use to us as we fortunately are not subject to earthquakes. It is not considered they are likely to be of any value, and as they are very costly instruments, having to be mounted on stone pillars, we do not propose to adopt them. In regard to the instruments for registration the Manila anemograph registers in the office whereas ours can only be consulted by going on the roof which is always difficult and often impossible. It was moreover damaged during the last typhoon. The Director strongly recommends the purchase of a pressure tube anemograph of the Dines-Baxendall type with a recording apparatus mounted on the lower floor. We propose to purchase this and the vote before the Council now is concerning this. As this is primarily a pressure instrument he is of the opinion that it may be very valuable to the Building Authority and the civil engineers in the colony, since the instrument registers the wind pressure momentarily, the pressure of each gust of wind, and is of course of more value for gauging the resistance of any building than our Beckley which only registers the average velocity of the wind. These pressure tube instruments are adopted by many of the British observatories. The cost is estimated, including some alterations to the building, at about \$1100. It is also said that our instrument could be very greatly improved by fitting to its velocity gear a cheap chronograph in order to measure the wind velocity at short intervals by the aid of an electric current. We propose to adapt that to our existing instrument. This suggestion was made by Mr. Hunt, who is the meteorological expert of the Commonwealth Government, and has been visiting during the last eight months the principal observatories of America, Europe and India in order to see their instruments and, if possible, to see whether the instruments in Australia could in any way be improved. He spent a day in Hongkong at the end of January and Mr. Figge was able to obtain valuable information of exactly the nature we were seeking. The Manila Observatory has a Spring-Fuers barograph which registers mechanically instead of photographically as ours does. It is of advantage as the mechanical register records are immediately available. Mr. Figge tells me it would be a convenience but would add nothing to our ability to forecast storms and since it costs about \$2,000 it is not proposed to adopt it. On the main principle of forecasting typhoons I am glad to say that Mr. Figge finds himself in complete agreement with Father Algué that "the chief reliance for the early prediction of storms must be placed on observations of barometer, wind and weather telegraphed promptly from surrounding areas." Manila Observatory has a barocyclometer, but Father Algué did not recommend it. He said he possessed one but did not consult it frequently. He considered it useful for isolated observers but not for observatories connected with other stations.

The motion was agreed to.

RESOLUTION UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following resolution:

Resolved by the Legislative Council that the percentage on the valuation of tenements payable as rates in the undermentioned places be altered from the 1st day of July, 1909, as follows:—

	per cent.	per cent.
Tokwawan	From 9	to 9½
Hok Un	" 10½	" 11½
Saikoktsui	" 10½	" 11½
Hunghom	" 12½	" 13
Tsimtsatsui (Kowloon Point	" 12½	" 13
Yaumati	" 12½	" 13
Monkoktsui	" 12½	" 13

He said—In these districts fire hydrants have now been fixed and fire appliances are available for use in case of fire. Therefore it seems reasonable that the rates be increased by the usual three-quarter per cent.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

LIFE INSURANCE CO'S ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Life Insurance Companies Ordinance, 1907.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Code of Civil Procedure.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Evidence Ordinance, 1899.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1903.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until Thursday next.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed.

COMPENSATION FOR OPIUM DIVANS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of eleven thousand six hundred and thirteen dollars (\$11,613) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Compensation to Licensees for closure of Opium Divans.

The CHAIRMAN—This is for compensation to the licensees of twenty-six opium divans which have been closed as from the 1st March.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—In connection with this is there any intention on the part of the Imperial Government to carry out their abstract resolution for paying compensation for loss?

The CHAIRMAN—No, those terms do not come into operation until the beginning of the next farm. This is a matter of small compensation.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It is the direct result of the action taken by the Home Government.

The CHAIRMAN—I don't think we will squabble over an item of \$11,000. We are not so hard up as all that yet.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—It might be noted, however. By and bye we shall be presenting our bill.

The CHAIRMAN—That does not come until we let the new farm. This obligation will be discharged by the Colony.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—It would be included as part of the loss.

The CHAIRMAN—I have tried to explain to members that the loss will be calculated as from March 1st, 1910, on the letting of the new contract.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—That is the difficulty. How is the loss to be calculated? You can only tell what the new farm may bring. This is a definite loss.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—There is no harm in noting it down.

The CHAIRMAN—We know it is an actual loss. Still it is a very small thing.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—The principle is a very important one, and the loss before we are finished will be very serious. I think the Colonial Treasurer is quite right in raising the question at this time. There ought to be a

preliminary protest as the action has been forced upon us by the Imperial Parliament against our wish and we believe to the detriment of the Colony at large.

The CHAIRMAN—The question will come up when we let the new farm. We will then know how much the letting value has been diminished. I have no doubt, as his Excellency has informed the Council, we will receive every consideration from the Home Government. It only complicates matters to bring up this small matter, as it was understood we would not press a claim of this kind.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—We look to the Home Government and expect liberal compensation, but it does not follow that we will get it unless we make a protest at once.

The CHAIRMAN—I think His Majesty's Government understand that. However, I will inform His Excellency of what hon. members have said.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50) in aid of the vote, Medical Department, Staff, Other Charges, Health Officer of Port, Boat's Crew and Messenger.

OBSERVATORY VOTE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$950) in aid of the vote, Observatory, Laboratory Expenses for purchase of Anemograph and Chronograph.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Mon. 30th at the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutcheson presided, and there were present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G. (Vice President), Colonel Bedford, Hon. Mr. Irving, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Pearce and Dr. A. Gibson (Secretary).

EXHUMATION OF BODIES.

On the reading of the minutes of last meeting, Mr. LAU CHU PAK said that although he was not in order he craved the indulgence of the Board as the matter was one of great urgency. He would like to ask what steps the Government had taken with regard to the issuing of permits for the exhumation of bodies. Some Chinese had written him on the matter pointing out that as the Chinese festival was approaching when they wished to exhume the remains of their relatives and send them to the mainland it was important that they should be able to secure permits for exhumation.

The PRESIDENT said he realised the importance of the question, but he regretted that up to the present he had no information except the letter read from the Government. He understood that as soon as the law was passed, powers would be given to certain persons to grant permits. Until that law is passed no exhumation permits can be issued.

Mr. HOOPER—I assume no exhumations are going on?

The PRESIDENT—None.

THE NEW MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT extended a welcome to the new member, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, who took his seat at the Board for the first time. He regretted that the paper announcing his appointment had arrived too late for circulation. They were pleased to see him.

Mr. HO KOM TONG bowed his acknowledgments.

PROPOSED SLAUGHTER HOUSE AT SHAUKIWAN.

The reply from the Government was as follows: Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 9th instant I am directed to state that an estimate of the cost of a slaughter house at Shauiwan has been called for with a view to the further consideration of the project in connection with the estimates for 1910.

ANTHRAX.

A minute by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon was read in which he reported a case of anthrax at Kennedy town on the 24th March. The animal came with fifteen others from Pakhoi and those had been placed under observation.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the month ended 27th February gave a death rate of 16.2 per

1,000 per annum for the whole Colony, and 17.2 inclusive of the army and navy.

RATS IN EUROPEAN HOUSES.

Correspondence relative to rats in European houses in Tsimshatsui was submitted.

Dr. Macfarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health reported that in consequence of numerous complaints, re rats in European houses, he appointed Inspector Brown to visit every one and enquire whether; (1) if they had rats or not; (2) if they wished traps, bird lime boards, rat poison, or all three. This took two days to do owing largely to the tenants in many cases keeping the inspector waiting 15 to 30 minutes, a rather inconsiderate proceeding. The result of these inquiries is shown in attached sheet. On the following day all traps, asked for were supplied by Inspectors McKenzie, Hynes and Brown: sixty-one traps, 137 bird lime boards, and 62 pieces of rat poison. In addition there are 35 houses rented by the Military Authorities in Austin Avenue, Salisbury Avenue, East Terrace etc. To these Major Macdonald, R.A.M.C., kindly agreed to issue traps etc. and 35 traps, 35 bird lime boards and 300 pieces of poison were issued for this purpose. Therefore there are now in the European quarter 96 traps, 172 bird lime boards, 360 pieces of rat poison issued by the Sanitary Department in 126 European houses, the remainder refusing to have them, or for other causes not wanting any. As the matter is of some importance, it might call attention to the seriousness of allowing rats in houses if the matter were circulated to the Board.

Mr. HOOPER, referring to the statement that certain European householders had objected to allow rat traps or rat poison to be placed in their houses, said he thought if the matter was properly brought to their notice, they would not object. He would not say that inspectors had a right to go into these houses and place them where they liked, but he thought a circular letter emanating from the Board might be distributed to each of the houses where it had been refused, pointing out the serious responsibility they were incurring by refusing to receive rat poison or traps. More particularly should it be pointed out that up till now out of 19 cases of plague 18 had been on the other side of the water. It was only that day that there had been one on this side. Although the majority of the cases which had occurred had been in Kowloon city, other cases had been found in Tsim Tsa Tsui, right in the locality where these complaints were made. He did not think it was necessary to move a motion, but he thought if it were known that the circulars emanated from the Board rather than the Department it would indicate to the people that the matter had been discussed by their representatives and that it was their wish that this work should be carried out.

THE SECRETARYSHIP OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The following letter was read from the Colonial Secretary,—Sir, I am directed to inform you that, in view of the present constitution of the Sanitary Department, it is considered that the duties of the Secretary to the Sanitary Board are no longer so responsible or arduous as they were when there was no Separate Head of the Department. (2) An opportunity offers to transfer Mr. G. A. Woodcock, the present Secretary, elsewhere and it is accordingly proposed to reduce the salary attached to the appointment from its present figure to a rate of £360, rising by triennial increments of £30 to £420 per annum, (3) The post will be offered, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Mr. C. F. W. Bowen Rowlands. (4) It is further proposed to abolish the post of principal clerk as it is not considered that such an officer is necessary when the Head of the Department devotes the whole of his time to the Department. I am to request you to lay this letter before the Board.

Mr. HOOPER—This is a very important change and should be fully discussed.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—Even if members wish to retain Mr. Woodcock's services I do not suppose it can be done. All who know him, I am sure, sincerely regret that he is to be taken away from the Sanitary Board. Ever since he was appointed secretary as the oldest unofficial member I can say without hesitation

that Mr. Woodcock invariably discharged his onerous duties most assiduously and conscientiously. My colleagues on the Sanitary Commission will no doubt concur with me in saying this. In all matters connected with the previous Board he had always been polite and considerate not only to members and European inquirers for information who came up to the office, but also to the lowest Chinese coolie to whom, when applied to, he always took the trouble to explain fully in Chinese what the law actually required. I am very sorry that his much appreciated services are no longer available to the present Board as, with a secretary sympathetic and knowing the Chinese and their language well as Mr. Woodcock does, much friction in carrying out sanitary measures would be obviated.

Mr. HOOPER—I would just like to add on behalf of some of the European unofficial members that we considered Mr. Woodcock was one of the most conscientious and hard-working officials in the Government of Hongkong. Having said that I move further consideration should be deferred till a confidential meeting to be held afterwards.

The PRESIDENT—As this is rather a difficult question, I second that.

This was agreed to.

LAND FOR PRIVATE CEMETERIES.

The report of the committee appointed by the Sanitary Board to consider the general advisability of disposing of land to be used as private cemeteries was as follows:

All cemeteries in the colony, whether leased or otherwise are subject to the regulations made by the Board for their sanitary maintenance and an increase in the number of detached and isolated cemeteries would therefore necessitate a larger staff of officers for their supervision. For this reason we consider it inadvisable to approve of land being disposed of by the Government for isolated and detached cemeteries except under special circumstances for denominations or classes of the community not at present provided for. If, however, any Chinese in affluent circumstances wishes to have a space reserved as a private graveyard, permission might be given for an area to be so reserved, and railed off either in an existing Chinese cemetery or on land adjoining such cemetery; the charge to be made for such special reservation to be calculated at the same rate as grave spaces in Class D of the Chinese Cemetery, namely at the rate of \$2 per square foot.

The report was signed by the Acting Head of the Department, the Director of Public Works and Mr. Hooper.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT minuted—I agree with the Committee's report.

The report was adopted.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. HOOPER gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting the following resolution: That as the new cemetery byelaws prohibit the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery, it is desirable that the Government should select a new site for and authorise a cemetery for the interment of the bodies of persons of the Buddhist faith where it may be lawful for the practice of such rites and ceremonies.

PLAGUE IN KOWLOON CITY.

The PRESIDENT remarked that there was one other matter. Mr. Hooper had asked at the last meeting what steps could be taken with a view to preventing the further spread of plague at Kowloon City. He had consulted the Medical Officer of Health and the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and it was thought that the only feasible plan was a general cleansing in the city, by which it was hoped they would be able to do something to mitigate the spread of the disease.

Mr. HOOPER—Are you doing that there?

The PRESIDENT—Yes. We are issuing notices.

Mr. HOOPER—I think it is a matter of sufficient urgency for the Government to do it.

The PRESIDENT—I think it will practically come to that.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—Don't they do it, generally?

The PRESIDENT—Kowloon city has never had a general cleansing at all.

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, March 31st.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

ROBINSON PIANO CO. V. MADAME FLINT.

Argument was heard in the action brought by the Robinson Piano Company against Madame Flint, milliner and dressmaker of 17A Queen's Road Central, on the point of law as to whether certain letters constituted an agreement. The statement of claim was to the effect that by an agreement which was contained in correspondence which passed between the parties the plaintiff agreed to let to the defendant and the defendant agreed to take from the plaintiffs the eastern portion of the store at 10 Des Voeux Road Central for four years and two months, commencing 1st. February 1909, at a rent of \$350 per month. The defendant had refused to carry out the agreement.

The defence denied the existence of any agreement to take the shop; and further that there were other conditions to the intended agreement besides those expressed in the letters and the matter was only in a state of negotiation.

The Hon Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr Hett, of Messrs Brutton and Hett appeared for the plaintiffs, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr Steavenson, from the office of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Pollock, after reading the statement of claim, referred to the special case. He quoted a letter written by defendant to Mr. W. V. Robinson on 29th December last in which she stated that she was willing to take a lease of the premises for three years with option to extend the same for another year if she found it convenient at a rental of \$350 a month inclusive of taxes, the term to commence on 1st February, 1909. She also wrote that plaintiff would have to give an undertaking that the noise by his gramophones would have to be discontinued as it would be an annoyance to her in her business. His Lordship would see from that letter that there was an agreement to take the eastern portion of the premises. Plaintiff replied on the 30th December in which he wrote that he could not lease the premises for a shorter period than four years but he would be willing to allow her to sublet. Everything, continued Mr. Pollock, showed that the proposal was agreed to: the only thing outstanding was the question of width of the premises and the question of the term. Counsel, in conclusion, said there was a memorandum signed by the defendant agreeing to take the eastern portion.

His Lordship—Is it an action for specific damages?

Mr. Pollock—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—I am a little puzzled about this specific agreement. It seems to me it is a case where damages would meet it because you have the premises and of course can let them. I think the general principle of specific performance is that if it is a matter which can be expressed in damages you must take your damages.

Mr. Pollock—It is for the Court to say.

Sir Henry submitted there had been no concluded agreement. At the most there was a treaty from which the parties could withdraw. Before proceeding he wished to take the preliminary objection that the plaintiffs had no right to bring the present action. The plaintiffs were the Robinson Piano Company, but the correspondence defendant had was with Mr. William Vaughan Robinson. If there were an agreement it was with Mr. Robinson personally or with him as agent for the Robinson Piano Company; on the former the Robinson Piano Company could not bring an action against the defendant. In the second case if he acted as agent the plaintiffs could not succeed unless they alleged in the statement of claim that he had the authority not only to enter into negotiations but also to procure a purchaser and sign a binding contract with that purchaser. The statement of claim did not contain any such allegations. There was no binding contract on the letters because on the letters the contract, if any, was made with Mr. William Vaughan Robinson. It did not follow that a

general manager had the powers which Mr. Robinson assumed. It did not follow that he could bind his company in this way.

His Lordship—How can you negotiate with a man in a certain capacity and then say he has not that capacity?

Sir Henry—We are not doing that; we say that if there was a contract it was not made with the Robinson Piano Company but with Mr. Robinson. It is not a contract which the Court can order the specific performance thereof or give damages for the breach of the contract.

His Lordship—You cannot contend that the manager could not enter into a lease on behalf of the company. It may be that the lease when signed will be signed by the seal of the company.

Sir Henry—This is an agreement to take a lease.

His Lordship—It is an agreement to take the premises, the terms to be embodied in a lease.

Sir Henry—These letters are only negotiations between the parties for a contract to be drawn up.

When Sir Henry referred to defendant's request for an undertaking with respect to the gramophones,

His Lordship remarked—She expected a good deal if she expected the gramophones would not make a noise (laughter.)

Sir Henry—Yes. The whole probability is that this would not have been given.

Counsel proceeded to argue that there was no final contract because the draft lease was to be prepared by the solicitors, and if there was no binding contract there was no breach.

His Lordship—I don't know how leases are to be drawn up if this is not a binding agreement. Nobody would be bound at all.

Sir Henry—It is not a contract.

His Lordship—I am only talking in the abstract.

Sir Henry—They have not presented any lease to us to sign.

After further argument the hearing was adjourned.

The hearing of argument in this action was continued.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said he did not think he could accept the suggestion which had been made with regard to the terms of the letters by defendant. He had to look at the intention of the parties in the series of correspondence and it was clear to his mind that they had agreed after a series of written discussions as to what the principal terms were on which the lease was going to be taken out. Then came a final remark by defendant that if plaintiffs instructed their solicitors to prepare a draft lease Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon would approve of the same. The question he had to settle was: Is this an agreement subject or dependent upon terms to be approved by the solicitors or does it simply mean that terms have been agreed to and that the agreement has to be drafted. He thought it was not an agreement subject and dependent upon certain terms which would ultimately be approved by solicitors, but that terms had been agreed to by the parties and that these were to be drafted by the solicitors. By that he meant that so far as the parties were concerned they had settled all they had to say and, if there was any question for the solicitors to see to, those matters must be settled between themselves. He was sorry that the case had come into Court because it did not admit of any very easy settlement either by way of specific performance or damages. The defendant, he was perfectly sure, would have been very astonished if she had not got the premises when she wanted them, but he supposed she changed her mind. But the law did not allow persons to change their mind, not even the opposite sex. When once the offer was accepted there was an end of the matter. Defendant seems to have stood upon what she thought were her legal rights and he could not blame the plaintiffs for doing the same. They had got a very good bargain and wanted to stick to it. Therefore he thought they were entitled to it. How they were to have it he did not know, but he had worked out a form of judgment which he thought would meet the case. The fact was that the case itself contained elements of settlement. There were the empty premises which might probably be let and as soon as they were, there was an end of the damages. However, the parties had chosen to stand upon their rights, and therefore he must

state them. The rights were these: First the plaintiff must get his costs. Secondly, it was not a case for damages because he did not think the damages could be expressed at present. Therefore he thought it was a case for specific performance, but not yet. Specific performance could only be when the conditions which were to be fulfilled by plaintiffs themselves had been fulfilled. That was really carrying out the term of the contract. Those conditions might be very small but that is neither here nor there. There were certain things to be done by plaintiffs and when those were done the plaintiffs could have specific performance. Of course there could be no judgment finally drawn up until then. Both parties could look about for a tenant and he was sure that each would help the other and directly there was a tenant the whole matter would come to an end.

Mr. Pollock said there were two little points to be mentioned. First his clients were to have built the vestibule by the first of February this year and then the lease also was to have started from that date. Of course there could not be specific performance from the first of February.

His Lordship—I do not see how I can help you any further.

Mr. Pollock—Will the four years and two months mean from the new date?

His Lordship—Oh yes.

Sir Henry—If the plaintiffs are not in a position to give a lease for four years and two months no order should be made?

His Lordship—I do not follow that.

Sir Henry—I am informed that they are not in a position to give us a lease for four years and two months, because their own lease is not long enough.

His Lordship—Then it must be reduced.

Sir Henry—No, not at all. If they cannot give us what we agreed to the contract is at an end.

His Lordship—But they could then on February first.

After further discussion his Lordship pointed out that he could not help the reduction to the lease because the defendant had broken the contract.

Mr. Pollock suggested that there should be damages for the two months already expired, but his Lordship said he was not disposed to give damages. His Lordship made an order that the conditions of the lease should be fulfilled within a month, and added that if the parties did not carry out the terms of the judgment then they would see what would happen.

Thursday, April 1st.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR
FRANCIS PIGGOTT.)

S. E. ALLANA'S AFFAIRS.

S. E. Allana appeared for his public examination.

Debtor in reply to the Official Receiver, said he was the late proprietor of S. E. Allana and Company, drapers, 1A D'Aguilar Street, which business he started in December 1906 when he bought it from S. M. Barhoo for about \$15,000. It was less than \$15,000 and more than \$14,000. He could not remember the exact amount. It was paid in instalments of \$400 a month and these he paid up till the time he filed his petition. He had no capital when he started except \$1,000 worth of jewellery. He had no partners. He thought he made a profit in the first year. The only books he kept were a customers' ledger. He did not keep a cash book.

By the Court:—Why not?—Because I had no partners.

Debtor said he had a banking account at the Yokohama Specie Bank which he opened in 1907. Prior to that he had an account at the International Bank which was closed. On November 7th he paid into the Yokohama Bank \$3,000 which Moosa Vieira asked him to keep for him. Moosa handed him \$8,000 to keep for him, \$5,000 of which he placed in the Dutch Bank. This account was closed.

Rather an extraordinary thing to give you \$8,000 to keep, wasn't it? Was there any agreement?—No agreement.

Were you to keep it as long as you pleased?—No, until he wanted it.

Did you pay it back to him?—Yes.

In the month following you paid \$6,000 into the Yokohama Specie Bank?—I drew it from the Dutch Bank and paid it into the Yokohama Specie Bank.

Debtor explained with regard to another cheque that he had bought a draft for £500 at the instance of Moosa in order to make a little on the exchange. Moosa had no interest in the business, but he sold goods to debtor on commission. Debtor thought he made more than \$2,000 in the first year.

What were your personal expenses?—During the first year my pocket expenses were \$100 a month.

You kept no account?—No.

It might have been \$1,000 for all you know?—No, not so much.

Debtor, asked why he drew out cheques to bearer, said that sometimes they were for other people and sometimes for his pocket expenses. Some of the cheques paid to Moosa were after the bankruptcy and those had been paid to the Official Receiver.

Can you make out any statement as to what you have been spending on yourself during the last two years?—This year I spent more money because after November 1907 I started drinking and I did not know how many dollars I spent.

You have been spending a lot of money?—I don't know. Before I never drank. After November I was always thinking about my cargoes.

You know you have been spending considerable sums, in drinking and other things?—At morning time I was very sorry but at night time I did not know how many dollars I was spending.

Where did you get the money from?—Selling the cargo in the shop in business.

Have you been in the habit of frequenting disorderly houses?—Yes.

You spent a lot of money there?—Yes.

Have you any family dependent upon you?—No.

Mr. Scott Harston, who appeared for Messrs. J. D. Hutchison and Company, questioned the debtor.

When did you first know you were insolvent?—At the last moment when every creditor wished to take money.

Do you recollect having an interview with Mr. Pearce of Messrs. J. D. Hutchison and Company in October last when you assured him you were solvent?—No.

Do you deny that you had the interview and that you said that?—I told him nothing.

If Mr. Pearce says you said you were solvent and it was in consequence of that statement he allowed you to have \$3,000 worth of goods, he is not speaking the truth?—He came to my shop and asked me to give him an order and I gave him an order.

He never inquired, although your case was reported in the papers, into your solvency?—The case was published in the newspapers and he asked me if I was going into bankruptcy and I said no.

You say you had no such conversation. I put it to you that you made a deliberate false statement to obtain \$3,000 worth of goods?—I deny it.

You sold this business of yours before the bankruptcy?—Yes.

You were not then really the owner. You had not paid for it?—Yes, I was the owner.

Had you paid for it?—No.

You know as a matter of fact that the promissory notes you had given for this business were held by the National Bank of China?—Yes.

Hypothecated to them for the purpose of financing Moosa E. Vieira who were supplying you with goods?—I gave the promissory notes to Moosa E. Vieira who hypothecated to the Bank.

And that the Bank was financing Moosa E. Vieira?—I did not know that. He was helping me.

You knew he had hypothecated the goods?—Yes.

Don't you think that before transferring this business you should have communicated with the bank?—I thought a good price was offered for the business and I sold it.

With regard to this money which you say Moosa E. Vieira gave you to keep for him. You knew he was in difficulties at that time?—Yes.

You knew that shortly afterwards he went bankrupt?—Yes.

Why didn't you inform the Official Receiver about this money?—He was not bankrupt when he gave me the money.

He was bankrupt before you delivered up the money?—Yes.

You knew he was bankrupt and you took no steps to give up the money?—He told me to keep it for him.

Do you call that honest?—He told me to keep it aside.

Do you call that honest on your part?—I can't say.

I suggest to you that the whole of these drawings of yours and this complication with Moosa E. Vieira was a system of jugglery?—No, it was not.

Why didn't you draw the cheques in an honest way with the man's name on them?—Well he asked me to give him cash.

You have not kept proper books of account?—Only a ledger.

You have been guilty of extravagance in living?—I did not know it at that time.

The public examination was closed.

SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' HOME.

RENOVATION SCHEME.

We have pleasure in complying with a request to give publicity to the following appeal for funds towards the renovation of the Sailors and Soldiers' Home:—

In placing this appeal before the public of Hongkong we would point out that the Home in Arsenal Street has for eight years filled a great need in the life of the Colony. It is difficult to realise the full blessing its attractions and influence have been to our sailors and soldiers. Men of all creeds have been welcome to its advantages, and by their abundant patronage have shown their appreciation thereof. It perhaps will surprise some to learn that during the past year more than 12,000 men have slept in the comfortable, clean beds of the Home. When it was opened it was the only place of its kind where sailors and soldiers could sleep for a night. Not only has the Home provided for the temporal welfare of the men, but also it has been a centre of vigorous activity in temperance and religious work.

If this worthy Institution is to continue its past successful work it is absolutely necessary that the interior and fittings should be thoroughly renovated; that the sanitary arrangements should be brought up to date, that the rough walls should be plastered, electric light installed and in other ways so to improve the interior as to ensure its being an attractive Home.

For this purpose a sum of \$10,000 is urgently required, a portion of which amount, it is hoped, will be obtained from England. During the eight years of the Home's existence no appeal has been previously made to the public of Hongkong, and it is therefore with confidence we earnestly solicit the generous help of those who have at heart the highest welfare of our sailors and soldiers. Inspection of the Home by those interested in its work is cordially invited.

Donations should be sent to—The Rev. J. A. A. Baker, 2 Morrison Hill, or to Captain F. A. Brown, The Hongkong and Kowloon Godown Co., Kowloon.

A CALLOUS CHINESE BOATMAN.

An unusual case came before Mr. F. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Mar. 30, a Chinese boatman being charged by Inspector Langley with failing to observe No. 7 of the Harbour Regulations which requires a boatman or other person to render every assistance possible to a drowning person. It appears that on Sunday afternoon a boat capsized in Hung Hom Bay and the occupants were left struggling for their lives in the water. Several boats in the vicinity rendered assistance, and rescued a number of the struggling seamen. Defendant's craft was in the vicinity at the time of the capsizing, and, had he taken prompt measures, he might have saved the life of a man who was drowned. But he did not attempt to lend a helping hand, notwithstanding the fact that some Europeans on the foreshore offered him a reward of \$30 to rescue the drowning man. The hearing of the case was adjourned.

THE POST OFFICE PROSECUTION.

William Nattall, on remand, again appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 30 on charges of fraudulently removing stamps from nine parcels.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. C. McL. Messer, Postmaster-General, deposed to going into the Registration Office on Friday, March 19th, after tiffin. Mr. Martin was absent at the time. He then noticed that Mr. Britto and a coolie were opening a London parcel box. Parcels were placed in the parcel room, but, after being packed, nailed and sealed, were placed in the back of the registration room. Witness returned with Mr. Martin later to look at the box mentioned, and was shown one parcel with an embossed ten cent stamp on it, but no postage stamp and no postmark. After seeing this parcel Mr. Messer ordered the rest of the parcels to be taken out of the box and examined. Three were found deficient in postage, and all bore signs of having had stamps on them. Witness then ascertained that the defendant had received these particular parcels. He summoned Mr. Nattall before him, found that he had not entered certain insurance rates, and informed him that the deficiency had to be made up. He did not see defendant put the stamps on, but subsequently saw the box repacked and saw that the stamps were on. After seeing the box stamped witness wrote a memo calling for an explanation, and received a reply from defendant. On receipt of this he suspended him. After he had left a report was made by Mr. Martin, and witness afterwards found that four London parcels were deficient in postage. In an examination of the Australian box he found other parcels deficient in stamps. As far as witness knew the work done by the other clerks on that day was correctly done. If a clerk picked up a stamp on the floor of the Post Office he ought certainly to hand it over to Mr. Martin, or in his absence to the next senior man.

Cross-examined—Witness did not have all the boxes opened on the 19th instant. Those boxes which were packed he did not have opened.

In reply to his Worship witness stated that deficiencies in postage occurred very seldom.

Detective-Sergeant James Watt deposed to visiting the Post Office on the afternoon of March 19th. He observed that the stamp on one parcel he examined had a damp, oily, dirty, second hand appearance. From the Post Office he went to St. Francis Yard with Inspector Sullivan and Mr. Martin and saw defendant on the street. He told him he was arresting him on suspicion of removing stamps from the General Post Office, and cautioned him. Afterwards he asked permission to search defendant's boxes. Defendant consented, and later when witness attempted to search his person, defendant pulled certain stamps out of his pocket and handed them to him. He said at the time that he had picked them up on the floor of the parcel office, and that he could explain to Mr. Messer. Witness took defendant to the Police Station where he was charged and made the following statement: "I did not remove the stamps off the parcels, but picked them up from the floor of the Post Office after the mail (English parcel mail) had been packed."

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Goldring submitted that the prosecution had not made out a case, the evidence in support of their case being entirely inconclusive. It was clear from defendant's books, which were before his Worship, that the defendant had been working hard on that day, and the evidence adduced by the prosecution only showed carelessness.

His Worship considered there was a case to meet, and Mr. Goldring decided to put the defendant in the box.

William Nattall bore testimony to the effect that he did not on the 19th instant, or any other date, remove stamps from any parcels. Most of the stamps he had in his possession when arrested he picked up from the floor of the parcel office. Other two he bought from a shroff. Witness noticed

nothing wrong with the parcels until called before Mr. Messer.

Cross-examined—The mail on March 19th was not heavier than any other English mail. Witness was not very busy in the Post Office except on the day of closing of the English parcel mail. Sometimes he chopped stamps after giving a receipt, but sometimes he did not do so until the mail was closing. Usually he chopped stamps after giving receipts. On the parcel (produced) there was a stamp, but there was no sign of a chop having been on the stamp. The two stamps witness bought he paid for. He bought them at the end of last month. The backs were probably dirtied through being in his waistcoat pocket. He was not a stamp collector, but many of the employees in the Post Office bought stamps to keep. The clean dollar stamp and the fifty cents stamp which witness picked up he held because he did not know what to do with them. Defendant was a fourth rate clerk and received \$64 a month. When arrested he had \$3—\$4 in silver in his pocket. He did not usually spend all his money by the 19th of the month. When told to make up the deficiency in stamps he got the stamps from a Post Office Shroff. He did not pay him at the time because he had no Hongkong money. The amount had not been paid since.

Re-examined—Witness had not seen any regulations posted up informing employees what to do with stamps they picked up.

Detective—Sergeant Watt, recalled, stated the money in defendant's possession appeared to be Hongkong dollars and half dollars.

After the hearing of further evidence the case was adjourned.

The hearing of the charge against William Nuttall, an ex-Post Office employee, of fraudulently removing stamps from parcels in the Post Office, was continued before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 1st inst.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for the defendant.

The father of the defendant was called, and spoke to defendant being well behaved. He always gave his wages to his mother, only keeping overtime which he occasionally earned. Witness was not aware that his son borrowed money from Indian money lenders.

Mrs. Nuttall, mother of the defendant, told the Court that on the day her son was arrested he gave her some twenty cent pieces and two florins.

This concluded the evidence for the defence.

Mr. J. C. Castello was recalled on the application of Mr. Bowley. He stated that the defendant signed one of the two promissory notes he made as security for witness. Defendant was not told by witness to sign the second promissory note.

Mr. Goldring submitted that the prosecution had not disclosed any case against the defendant on the evidence. On the evidence of Mr. Martin and Mr. Messer he submitted that the case was in defendant's favour. Why should the defendant if he was guilty have not removed the whole of the stamps from any parcel. If he was under a cloud why should he have returned to the Post Office after tiffin, and why should he have allowed himself to be so easily found by the police. One of the exhibits put in showed that defendant was nothing more than a foolish and careless boy. It was perfectly clear that on the day in question the Parcels Branch was in an extremely congested condition, and other people had admittance to that branch on that day. Sixty per cent of the clerks in the Post Office were Portuguese; in fact it was the happy hunting ground of the Portuguese. There was a quarrel between Britto and the defendant. What was more natural than that they should decide to "fix him"! Mr. Goldring did not think too much weight should be given to their evidence. Again, a witness whom he had to subpoena was a convert to Christianity, and should be worthy of credence, but the speaker suggested to his Worship that in some cases the Chinese convert was the least worthy of credence of all the Chinese. This man's evidence was very contradictory. It was clearly explained that defendant was in the habit of buying stamps for his father. The number of stamps found on him did not in any way tally

with the number of stamps lost. In conclusion Mr. Goldring pointed out that the whole of the defendant's career would be ruined by a conviction. It was simply a case of suspicion, and he asked that the defendant should receive the benefit of every doubt and be discharged.

His Worship said the defence had been put as well as it could have been, but the defendant would be convicted and sentenced to six months' hard labour.

Mr. Goldring—Would your Worship consider the First Offenders Act?

His Worship—I can't.

Mr. Goldring—I think you can, in consideration of his youth and the circumstances.

Mr. Bowley—In view of the serious nature of the offence, and the importance of protecting the Post Office, I cannot consent to your Worship adopting the suggestion of my friend and releasing the defendant on probation. But in view of his youth and history, and seeing that he is a Hongkong boy whose parents are well known here, I think your Worship might be lenient and give a less sentence than the maximum penalty.

Mr. Goldring—It seems to me that this is one of the very cases for which that Ordinance was passed. I cannot appeal to your Worship too strongly as to how a conviction will affect his parents and the defendant.

His Worship—I see that myself.

Mr. Goldring—If released he will be under the eye of the police, and I think he has been sufficiently punished. I submit this is one of the cases which the Ordinance I mentioned meets.

His Worship—The smallest sentence I can impose is three months' hard labour.

THE HONGKONG PERJURY CASE.

COMMITTAL ORDER RESCINDED.

This week's mail brought a report of the judgment given by the Judicial Committee in the case of the seven Chinamen who appealed to the King in Council from an order made by the Chief Justice of Hongkong (Sir Francis Piggott), committing them to prison for three months for contempt of court and perjury, contrary to an ordinance of the Colony. They were witnesses in a bankruptcy suit, in which the question at issue was whether one, Wong Ka Chuen, was a partner in the debtor firm or not. They gave evidence that he was. The jury found that he was not. After the verdict the Chief Justice called the appellants before him and addressed them through an interpreter in the following terms:

"The witnesses have, to my mind been guilty of the most flagrant conspiracy to defraud the alleged partner. They have each one been guilty of the most corrupt perjury, and in virtue of the provisions of the law which empowers me to deal at once with such cases, I commit each of them to prison for three months without hard labour."

That order was subsequently confirmed by the Chief Justice himself and Mr. Justice Wise sitting in the Supreme Court. The appellants, after serving ten days' imprisonment, were released on bail pending this appeal.

Lord Collins, in giving their lordships' judgment, said that while they thought the language used by the Chief Justice was sufficiently specific to make the appellants aware of the charge made against them, they considered the Chief Justice should before sentencing them have given them an opportunity of adducing reasons against summary measures being taken. The giving of such an opportunity was essential in cases of committal for contempt of court, which was a criminal offence and *a fortiori* in a case of perjury. Their lordships would advise his Majesty to reverse the judgments of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Piggott and to rescind the committal order. There would be no order as to costs.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (Hongkong), and Mr. Macklin (instructed by Messrs. Langlois and Co.) appeared for the appellants.

The case was argued before Lord Atkinson, Lord Collins, Sir Andrew Scoble, and Sir Arthur Wilson.

LOCAL SPORT.

BUFFS REGIMENTAL SPORTS.

On Wednesday afternoon the second battalion of the Buffs held their regimental sports on the ground of the Kowloon Cricket Club, which was kindly placed at their disposal for the day, the A.A.A. track being used for the running events. The band of the regiment, under the baton of Bandmaster Hewitt, played an appropriate selection of music during the afternoon. There was an exceptionally large attendance, special quarters being provided for the officers and their friends and for the married soldiers, their wives and families. Seeing that it was the regimental sports, however, it was scarcely fair to Tommy Atkins to give him a back seat on the distant hillside. A more advantageous position should have been found for the men of the Buffs nearer to the sports arena. On all sides of the ground the hillside was crowned with men, the gaudy turbans of the Indian soldiery blending with the uniforms of different regiments. There was a large sports programme, notwithstanding the fact that many of the events had been decided on previous days, and most of the competitions brought forth a large number of competitors. The committee managing the sports did their work well, giving every satisfaction to competitors and carrying through the large programme to time. The running events proved interesting, but Lance-Corporal Andrews, the local deerfoot, was again to the fore, and easily won most of the races for which he entered. The final tug-of-war saw H. Co. victorious after a short pull, and then two Indian teams were allowed to try their skill, and it is safe to say that it is long since such a pull was seen in the Colony. The teams were C. Co. of the H.K.S.B.R.G.A. and No. 2 Co., the former being Mahomedans and the latter Sikhs. C. Co. won after a pull of eight minutes, by which time a number of the men on each side fell to the ground exhausted, and had to be resuscitated by their comrades.

INTERPORT SPORT.

We understand that the Swatow sportsmen are practising hard to give the visiting team from Hongkong good games at football and cricket and possibly also at tennis. Mr. H. Donaldson, the captain of the Swatow football eleven, is in Hongkong at present, and when seen by our representative as to the prospects of the Easter meeting between the interport teams, modestly expressed the opinion that Swatow would be satisfied if they managed to secure a draw at football, while they hoped to do well at cricket, especially as the Swatow contingent includes three Australian cricketers who are quite in their element when they are in flannels. In fact they are the mainstay of the team. The visitors may also anticipate some keen rubbers at tennis. The men from Hongkong may rely upon having a good time at the hands of their Swatow hosts.

THE PHILIPPINE POLL TAX.

TOURISTS TO BE EXEMPT.

The odious head tax imposed upon tourists visiting the Philippines, since February 20, 1907, has, says the *Cable News*, been abolished by Acting Collector McCoy, who on March 25th issued an immigration circular under the provisions of which the payment of that tax levied upon all aliens entering the Philippines will be guaranteed by the vessels upon which they arrive.

In the future, travellers or tourists arriving in the Islands in transit to another foreign port, or with the intention of leaving within sixty days after arrival, will not be considered as aliens within the meaning of the act of congress prescribing the tax and will be exempt from the actual payment of the same, upon the steamship agents filing suitable bond to guarantee such payment in cases where the tourist overstays the limit of sixty days. The privileges of the new circular are to extend to all travellers holding return trip tickets with stop-over privileges, who depart from the Islands within sixty days.

COMPANY REPORTS.

SHANGHAI GAS COMPANY LIMITED.

The Report for 1908, (being the 45th, since the origin of the Company,) is as follows:—

The Report and Statement of Accounts for 1908, now presented by the Directors, testify to the continued prosperity of the Company.

The higher cost of carbonising material, increased expenses and the loss which, for the first time, was incurred in the Company's Fitting business, were fully counterbalanced by the increased Sales of Gas, and the Working Account for the year shows a profit of Tls. 241,193.13, or practically the same as that for 1907.

The net profit for the year, however, amounted to Tls. 219,162.58, a decrease of Tls. 29,788.92, as compared with 1907. This result was almost entirely occasioned by the incurred on cost of the recent extensive additions to the Company's Plant, and it is evident that until such New Plant is working to its full capacity, the Company cannot expect to reap all the profits to be derived therefrom.

The Directors have considered it advisable to write down considerably the stocks of materials held in certain departments, and to enable them to do this they have appropriated from Renewals and Depreciation Account the sum of Tls. 30,000.000.

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account, after crediting the account with Tls. 6,603.65, carried forward after appropriation of the profits for 1907, and with the Tls. 30,000 above alluded to, and deducting the amount of Interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. (Tls. 84,000) paid on 25th July last, amounts to Tls. 171,766.23, of which sum the Directors recommend appropriation as follows:—

To pay a final dividend for the year 1908 on 24,000 shares at 6 per cent. (making 13 per cent. for the year) Tls. 3.00 per share	Tls. 72,000.00
To write off for depreciation of Land and Buildings	Tls. 894.13
To write off for depreciation of Manufacturing and Distributing Plant	94,246.42
To write off for depreciation of Furniture	319.24
	95,459.79
To carry forward to new account	4,306.43

CONSUMPTION.—Private consumption increased 25,999,900 c. ft. or 5.77 per cent. The increase in Gas used for Public Lighting has been 658,238 c. ft. 4.17 per cent.

GAS ENGINES.—The number of Gas Engines in use is 113, and the increase in Gas used for power amounted to 3,127,400 or 6.21 per cent.

COAL, &c.—Tons 2829.10. more carbonising material were used than in 1907 and 36,387,900 cubic feet more gas were produced.

RESIDUALS.—The Market for the Company's residuals has been satisfactory and, apart from coke, of which a largely increased quantity has been used for manufacturing purposes, there has been considerable increase in profit in all products.

FINANCE.—Early in the year the Directors decided to provide the funds necessary for the payment of balance of cost of the New Plant, by the issue of further Loan Capital in preference to increasing the Share Capital. To enable this to be done it was necessary to consolidate the whole of the Debenture Issues of the Company, and steps to effect this were taken. It was decided to create a new issue of 6 per cent. Debentures of not more than Tls. 1,250,000, of which, in the meantime Tls. 400,000 should be applied to the redemption of existing issues, and a further amount, not exceeding Tls. 400,000 should be issued as required. Practically all the holders of existing debentures have agreed to accept the new debentures in place of those now held by them, and of the residue a considerable portion has already been placed.

DIRECTORATE.—Mr. P. F. Lavers returned to Shanghai in May last, and resumed his seat on the Board, Mr. E. E. Clark having resigned on leaving for England. Mr. Laves has since

resigned owing to his absence from Shanghai, and the Board invited Mr. A. Hide to fill the vacancy. Mr. Hide's appointment requires confirmation at the Ordinary General Meeting. In accordance with the Articles of Association, Mr. J. M. Young retires, but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

AUDIT.—Mr. H. W. G. Hayter was appointed by the Directors to fill the place of Mr. W. H. Anderson who left Shanghai. Mr. Hayter and Mr. J. E. Bingham offer themselves for election as Auditors.

THE YANG-TSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the nineteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, on Friday, the 16th April 1909, at 4.30 o'clock p.m., precisely is as follows:—

The Board of Directors have now the pleasure to submit to the shareholders the annual report and audited statement of accounts and balance sheet to the 31st December, 1908.

Working Account 1907 and Former Years.—This account shows a credit balance of \$284,928.77 against \$128,802.74 on 31st December, 1907. The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend to shareholders of 20 per cent. out of this account, and the transfer of \$50,000 to the credit of re-insurance fund and \$10,000 to the credit of building reserve fund.

Dividend of 20 per cent (= \$12 per share)	\$144,000.00
To re-insurance fund	50,000.00
To building reserve fund	10,000.00
Balance carried forward	80,928.77
	\$284,928.77

Working Account, 1908.—The net premium earned during 1908, after deducting return premium, re-insurance premium etc., amount to \$1,131,513.63 against \$920,085.14 during 1907, and the account shows a balance at credit of \$743,637.03. The Directors recommend the payment of a special dividend of 5 per cent—\$3 per share, to be paid out of the interest earned, which will absorb \$36,000 and to carry forward the balance of \$707,637.03.

The dividends will be paid in Taels at exchange 73. \$15 per share at exchange 73= Taels 10.95 per share.

Reserve Fund.—This fund remains unchanged and stands at \$1,000,000

Re-insurance Fund.—After crediting this fund with \$50,000 as recommended above, it will amount to \$294,405.52.

Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account.—This account has been increased by \$114,076.33 and now amounts to \$199,234.10.

Sterling Exchange has been taken at 2/3 (the demand rate on 31st December, 1908) and the relative value between dollars and Taels at 73.

Investments.—The value, on 31st December last, has been taken for all the Association's Investments.

Directors.—In accordance with the Articles of Association, the present Directors all retire from office, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Auditor.—The accounts have been audited by Mr. G. H. Thomson. Messrs. G. H. and N. Thomson, chartered accountants, offer themselves for election at the meeting as auditors for the current year.

By order of the Board of Directors,
W. S. JACKSON,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 20th March, 1909.

COMPANY MEETING.

SHANGHAI AND HONGKEW WHARF CO., LTD.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd., was held on the 23rd inst. at the offices of Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co., Ltd., Shanghai. Mr. David Landale (Chairman of the Board of Directors) presided, and there were present Messrs. A. McLeod, C. W. Wrightson, H. A. J. Macray (Directors) R. H. Elias, F. A. de St. Croix, R. J. Hardoon, J. R. Elias, J. M. Young, I. R. Michael, R. G.

Gensburger, J. J. Judah, H. J. Clark, William Lunt, S. S. Benjamin, Barnes Moss, P. Crighton, Duncan Glass, T. Pemberton, R. E. Kadoorie, A. L. Anderson and Brodie A. Clark.

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen,—The Report and Accounts have been in your hands for some days and with your permission we will take them as read. Under the conditions of trade prevailing during last year your Directors hope that the result of our working for 1908 will be considered by you as not altogether unsatisfactory. Our earnings, it is true, show a large falling off, but that, I think, may be attributed to the trade of the port and not to any inability on our part to compete for and secure our full share of whatever business may be offering. I would like to point out that the number of steamers we have handled during the year was—91 home steamers, 636 coasting steamers and 306 coal steamers; and it was only because they brought much smaller cargoes than in normal times, that we did not make more out of them. You will also remember that I pointed out to you at our meeting last year, that storage was one of our chief sources of income and it is unnecessary to explain to you who are so well aware of the trade position of Shanghai, that there has not been the cargo here to store during the past few months. I noticed the other day that attention was called to the failure of this Company to write anything off for depreciation, and this, I consider, a very misleading statement. As you are well aware, we annually place a large sum of money to the credit of repairs account and that money is spent in keeping the Company's property in a serviceable condition. We have spent during the past twelve years an average of Tls. 36,000 annually on repairs, and I am glad to be able to assure you that the wharves and godowns and steam launches are in excellent order. It is an improvement in the general trade of the port that we want, and whether we may look for an early revival or not, you are as well able to judge as I am. There is one point I would like to draw your attention to with the Ratepayers' meeting so lately before us, and that is, that this Company pays the Municipality about Tls. 50,000 per annum in taxes and has one vote which is only recorded when a poll is taken. It is not correct to describe a poll as altogether an absentee vote. I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Mr. A. McLEOD seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN before submitting the motion to the meeting remarked that he would be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to propose "That a final dividend of Tls. 6 per share be paid amounting to Tls. 216,000."

Mr. MACRAY seconded the motion which was carried.

On the proposition of Mr. P. CRIGHTON, and seconded by Mr. F. A. de St. CROIX, the Board of Directors were unanimously re-elected.

Messrs. G. R. Wingrove and H. W. G. Hayter were re-elected auditors on the motion of Mr. ELIAS, seconded by Mr. MICHAEL.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business and I thank you for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be sent out at once.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

On Mar. 30th His Excellency Tseng Chi, the Tartar General newly appointed to Canton, having arrived from the north by the steamer Kwongtai made an official landing in the morning at Murray Pier, where he was met by Captain Mitchell Taylor, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor, and escorted to Government House where he was received by Sir Frederick Lugard. Afterwards he called on H. E. the General Officer commanding. In the afternoon Sir Frederick returned the call by visiting H. E. Tseng Chi on one of the Chinese gunboats which have arrived from Canton to conduct him to that city. Afterwards the Tartar General visited Mr. Harris' Commissioner of Customs, at his Peak residence. To-day H. E. Tseng Chi will be entertained to an official tiffin at Government House and will later visit Quarry Bay Dockyard.

VOLUNTEER INSPECTION.

The annual inspection of Hongkong Volunteers by the General Officer Commanding took place on March 27th at Causeway Bay. This was the first occasion on which the Infantry company and the cadets participated, and consequently the event was more than usually interesting. A good many onlookers were attracted to the locality and enjoyed the interesting spectacle. The three detachments of Volunteers assembled at Headquarters, with the exception of the Quarry Bay section which waited the arrival of the others on the ground, and headed by the Buffs Band marched to the Polo Ground at Causeway Bay, the artillery, with rifles slung over their shoulders dragging maxim guns. Lieut. Colonel Chapman was in command. The corps certainly looked very smart and business-like and their appearance evoked favourable comment en route. Arrived at the Polo Ground they were joined by the mounted troop, to the number of 24 in charge of Lieut. Ross, and the cadets commanded by Lieut. Williams. His Excellency Major General Broadwood was not long in coming upon the scene. He was received with a general salute after which he made a minute examination of the arms and accoutrements of the Volunteers. Then the whole corps marched past very steadily and subsequently advanced in review order. The new having been drawn up, the Inspecting Officer addressed them, very briefly, complimenting the corps upon their creditable appearance, smart turnout, and steadiness on parade and said all the movements were done in a soldierly manner.

The parade strength was 230.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association was held on the 31st ult. at the City Hall—Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., presiding over a moderate attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said this was the fourth occasion on which the Volunteer Reserve Association had met to hear the report of the proceedings for the previous twelve months. He regretted to say that the report on this occasion showed a slight falling off in the enrolled membership. There were at the end of December 1907 on the strength 230 and on the strength last year there were 193, of whom 185 were present in the colony. The falling off had been due to members leaving the colony and to deaths. Practically the strength was the same as last year, and he supposed that the lack of accretion was due to the fact that the field was pretty well exploited and that most of the men qualified in the somewhat restricted area had already joined. They knew that only those who had attained the age of 35 were allowed to join the association unless they had served in the regulars or auxiliary forces for a period of ten years. It had been suggested that the age limit should be reduced to 30, but the reason assigned by those with whom the last would lay was that it would restrict the area of recruiting for the Volunteers. The last thing that any member of the Association would wish to do was to act in a way detrimental to the volunteer force. They were, he proceeded, part of the volunteer force of this country. They were men most of whom had passed through service of some kind and they had the welfare of the voluntary defensive forces of the Colony at heart. He regretted the deficiency, whatever its cause. If it was due to lack of enthusiasm he trusted that would not be the case during the coming twelve months, and if anything could be done to waken and maintain the enthusiasm they might trust the governing body of the association to do everything possible. The falling off in the numbers was to be regretted, also in his opinion was the falling off in the attendance at the ranges. He could not see any reason why that should be the case. The targets were there. They had two ranges and they had everything which could induce men to make themselves efficient with the rifle. It might possibly be that some thought they were efficient and did not need to attend but he would remind them that as in every sport the men who did not have constant practice became slack. Members did not join

the association because of any gain but because they felt there was a call of duty, they felt that the manhood of the country should when the occasion arose be able to take a part in the defence of their father's abode. Proceeding, Sir Henry said the Association had been the subject of the consideration of the Defence Committee of the Colony. As they were aware, there was a scheme, not made public, for the defence of the Colony in case of need, and in that scheme the authorities hoped that the members of the Reserve Association should be able to play an effective part. It was impossible for the members of the association to play that effective part unless they had a training which would enable them to co-operate effectively in case of need. The war-like spirit, which was always alive, was with us to-day, but there was a feeling born of long years of security and peace that that spirit would never be called upon to materialise. But, with all respect, he considered that the reasoning of fools. In an Empire such as ours it was impossible to say when the call might materialise. He would make an earnest appeal to the members of the Association, who were physically capable, to attend at the ranges once or twice a month, or, at all events, as often as they could so as to justify the existence of the association. The Defence Committee of the Colony, with a view to making the association effective in defence had made one or two suggestions with respect to its members. One of those suggestions was that the members should be supplied with uniform, not necessarily to wear, but to have in readiness should the occasion arise. The committee thought that suggestion a prudent one and one which should be adopted. They were all well aware that a man who was taken with arms in his possession by the enemy and not being in uniform was liable to be and as they knew had been in past wars with other countries, shot at sight. According to the laws of war in case of an armed conflict between two nations only the authorised forces whether paid or voluntary were entitled to fight for their country. God forbid that the time should come when members of that association should be called upon to put on uniform but they should be prepared in case of necessity. The committee had approved of the suggestion and had informed the authorities that if the uniforms were provided by the Government and kept in store they would be used by them on whatever occasion might be proper. Another suggestion had been made, namely, that rifles should be provided and that also has been agreed to (applause). They had asked that the option might be with the members of the association for them to have the rifles themselves or to have them kept for them at the Volunteer Headquarters to be served out as occasion demanded. There was one other matter suggested by the Defence Committee which he strongly recommended for adoption and that was that those members of the association who had not been trained to drill either through having been members of the regular forces or having been in one of the auxiliary forces of the Empire should undergo sufficient training to enable them if called out to cooperate with the defence forces. It was suggested that those who were not now able to do so should learn such things as to advance, retire, form fours, etc., and it had been said that the time occupied in bringing one's self into such simple drill would not amount to many hours in the aggregate. Circulars had been sent out to members of the association on the subject and he was happy to say that up to the present they had met with a response which was quite favourable (applause). Last year he had announced that they would receive a grant from the Government to enable them to pay the secretary. At that time considerable difficulty was experienced in finding a gentleman who would be able to spare the time to perform the duties. He had approached the Government and the Government had expressed willingness to make a grant on certain reasonable conditions. These conditions were that the numbers of the association should be maintained and that the attendance at the ranges should not fall off. He regretted to have to report that those conditions had not been fulfilled and therefore the committee had not felt themselves justified in approaching the Government for a further grant. The grant was given to them under

certain specified and reasonable terms and the committee thought that they should not again approach the Government until they could say that those conditions had been carried out. It would therefore be necessary for them to proceed to the election of an honorary secretary and he was glad to be able to inform them that Dr. Evan Jones had come forward and was prepared to do the work if he would be elected by them (applause.)

Sir Henry Berkeley was re-elected chairman of the committee for the ensuing year, and the following committee was appointed: Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Captain Branch, Messrs. A. Denison, J. C. Gow, J. Hastings, A. Mackenzie, and G. H. Wakeman. Dr. Evan Jones was formally elected hon. secretary.

This concluded the business.

RACE PONY ATTACKED BY A BULL-DOG.

A few days ago while a mafoo was exercising Mr. Tiefenbacher's well-known race pony Maryland on Robinson Road, a bull dog, which was following two Europeans, attacked the pony, biting his off fore-leg very badly. The pony freed itself from the grip of the dog, pulled away from the mafoo and bolted along the road. It was eventually caught near Mr. Babington's house, and the police are now looking for the owner of the bull dog.

CUSTOMS RETURNS FOR 1908.

In view of the special attention which is taken in the movements of goods and treasure at the present time, the Acting Inspector General, the *N. C. Daily News* says, has approved of certain information being given in advance of the publication of the annual returns. The first set of tables contains the figures of the total amount of treasure, in gold and silver of all classes, and of copper coin, passing between China and foreign countries during 1908. Foreign countries are divided into Europe, America, Batoum and Asia, which again is sub-divided as will be seen. The following tables show the grand totals in all respects, the figures being, of course, in Haikwan Taels.

IMPORTS INTO CHINA.

	GOLD.	SILVER.	GRAND TOTAL.
Europe ...		4,062,863	4,062,863
America ...	36,500	2,690,947	2,727,447
Straits Settlements ...	—	5,286	5,286
Saigon and ...	—	—	—
Tongking ...	—	7,067	7,067
Hongkong ...	—	—	—
and Macao	143,131	12,583,308	12,726,439
Manila ...	—	259	259
Japan (including Formosa)	1,317,490	429,880	1,747,370
Korea ...	17,304	88,232	105,536
	1,514,425	19,858,842	21,373,267

The importation of copper is omitted for convenience, from the above tables. Two districts only sent copper coin to China in 1908, namely, Hongkong and Macao, Hk. Tls. 1,850; and Korea Hk. Tls. 56. These figures are included in the grand totals, respectively, as given above. There was no copper exportation from China.

EXPORTS.

	GOLD.	SILVER.	GRAND TOTAL.
Europe ...	11,246,158	1961,554	13,207,712
America ...	4,116	59,966	64,112
Batoum ...	—	43,140	43,140
India including Burma ...	810	1,005,338	1,006,148
Dutch Indies ...	—	12,171	12,171
Straits Settlements ...	25,095	342,594	367,689
Saigon and Tonking ...	—	3,477	3,477
Siam ...	—	503,709	503,709
Hongkong and Macao	374,289	26,427,350	26,801,639
Manila ...	400,430	—	400,430
Japan including Formosa	959,789	1,345,242	2,305,031
Korea ...	21,323	499,241	520,564
Vladivostok ...	—	179,706	179,706
	13,032,010	32,383,518	45,415,528

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN CROWN COLONIES.

SIR FRANK SWETTENHAM AND THE CROWN AGENTS.

We have received a copy of the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the organisation of the Crown Agents Office, and also a copy of the minutes of evidence.

The following extract from the evidence given by Sir F. A. Swettenham, K.C.M.G., has an interest for readers in Hongkong which justifies its reproduction.

877A. With regard to the system of carrying out works in the colonies under the advice and control of consulting engineers, you wish to give some evidence?—I think that is quite wrong.

878. You think that is wrong altogether?—Absolutely wrong.

879. The system of carrying out the works?—Yes.

880. Would you tell us why?—I think that is wrong in the case where the colony has got qualified officers to deal with the work. I think it stands to reason that it must be wrong. The system that is employed through the Crown Agents and the consulting engineers is that the consulting engineers become responsible for the work nominally. They undertake the work; they appoint an engineer to do it; they make a contract with him and the Government of the Colony has no voice in the matter whatever, except to pay all the bills.

881. Describe to us just what would happen in particular case. Where does the consulting engineer come in and who appoints him? Let us say that you want to make a bridge or railway in the Straits Settlements?—Suppose you want to make a railway in the Straits Settlements. I will describe a case which actually occurred. In Singapore they wished to make a railway across the island; it was approved by the Secretary of State, and the consulting engineers were immediately, being in the position of having to advise on the railway.—

882. Which consulting engineers? How did they come in?—The consulting engineers of the Crown Agents. They then proceeded to appoint an engineer to carry out the construction. The Colony was not asked anything about that; they appointed anybody they chose, sent them out to the Colony, and they proceeded to construct the railway. They did construct it almost, but at last the Colony could not bear it any longer, and there was such a fuss made that the engineer went away leaving it unfinished, and it was finished by the engineers of the Malay States Railways. The whole of that was done through the consulting engineers, their man in Singapore reporting directly to them everything that he was doing, and the Government of the Colony had no control whatever of any kind. All that the Colony could do was to pay the bill, and we always had to pay whatever was demanded, although the original estimates were enormously exceeded. They were exceeded time after time, and every time you had to go to the Council and say: "We have nothing whatever to do with this work; it is entirely outside the control of anybody in the Colony, but the gentleman who has been appointed by the consulting engineers in England says that he wants some more money, and you have got to vote it."

883. And they did?—They were told from here that they had to.

884. (Mr. Harris.) They did not go to the Colonial Office on the matter?—The Colonial Office almost invariably supports the Crown Agents.

885. (Sir Francis Mowatt.) Will you just complete the story? You say that the engineer went away, and some other engineer then proceeded to superintend? Who appointed the second engineer?—One or two of the works built by this first man collapsed; a bridge tumbled down and I think an embankment gave way, and everybody in the Colony became a critic of the railway, so that at last the man got so tired of it all that, mainly through the representations of the Government, when it was nearly completed, he went away. The Malay States having already for twenty years been constructing their own railways without any assistance whatever from

the Crown Agents, sent a man down and completed it.

886. (Chairman.) But how was it that the Crown Agents came in the first time in the case of this railway and did not come in the case of the other railways built during the preceding twenty years?—Because the Malay States is not a British Colony, and never has been, and therefore they have done more what they like.

887. If it was necessary for Singapore to go to the Crown Agents in the first instance, how did they manage to evade the Crown Agents when they found the bridges tumbling down and got the Federated Malay States to do it for them?—I think at last at this end, the Colonial Office, the Crown Agents and the consulting engineers got rather tired of the constant complaints that were made, and the man himself at last got so sick of it that he said he would like to go away, and that was the actual result.

888. (Sir Francis Mowatt.) But did the Crown Agents appoint or approve of the second engineer?—No, I do not think they did. The line took more than twice as long to construct as it ought to have done, it cost about twice the original estimate, and it was beginning to look as if the line would never be finished, and in despair they all said, "All right, do it your own way," but there was very little left to be done.

889. But what about the parts that tumbled down?—That happened afterwards.

890. (Mr. Gibson.) What was the date of this incident you are telling us about?—From 1900 to 1903.

891. The completion of this was later than the last Report dealing with the resolutions of the Crown Agents to the Colonies, dealt with by Mr. Chamberlain?—I was in Singapore at the time, and I represented to the Colonial Office as plainly as I could what the facts were, but, as I say, they support the Crown Agents in these matters, and I was told this was what was called the recognised system. I pointed out that we had been for twenty years very successfully constructing railways in the Malay States by what was not called the recognised system, but they said that did not matter—that we had been twenty years wrong. That was all.

892. (Chairman.) I am told that the Secretary of State for the time being took the view that in Singapore the local officials had not got experience of building railways?—I think that is true.

893. And that therefore they could not be allowed to be responsible for building them?—I think that is the case; I think there was not in the service of the Government in Singapore at that moment anybody capable of doing it, but surely it was just as easy for the Colony to appoint a man as it is for the consulting engineers. The difference is that the man having been appointed by the consulting engineers in this case had never previously been in the Colony or the East at all, and he knew nothing about the price of local labour, local materials, or anything to do with it. Consequently he was constantly making mistakes for which the Colony had to pay, because there is really no responsibility, and what seems so entirely wrong is that the consulting engineers are not only your advisers but they are really the constructors of the railway. They are advising on their own work all the time. That is what seems so wrong. They are responsible yet they are your only technical advisers. That is a position that cannot be right.

894. (Mr. Harris.) Are you sure that they were constructors?—Yes.

895. I remember a good many cases of construction of railways, but my recollection is that always there has been a constructing firm apart from the consulting engineers.—This is a Departmental work, and I myself am strongly in favour of Departmental work when it is done by the Government with an engineer who is quite independent of the consulting engineers.

895a. I have had some little experience of the Colonial Office, and that is my conception of the usual system. I cannot help thinking that you are telling us of a system which was an anomaly?—I have no doubt about it.

896. (Chairman.) I am told that the usual practice is that the resident engineer is looked upon as the servant of the local Government, and that all his reports to the consulting engineers go through the Government. Was

that the case with you?—As to the engineer, no; as to the correspondence, yes, under flying seal they do.

897. But you could do nothing on it?—If we are not supposed to be capable of constructing a railway we are clearly not capable of criticising it. In this question I was told if I did not like it why did I not go out and look at the work and say what was the matter with it. I said I did not pretend to be an engineer.

898. The only thing you were considered to be capable of was to pay for it?—That was all, and as regards that we were not allowed to raise a question at all. We were simply told that we had to pay the bill.

899. We understand this system did not meet with your approval, and according to Mr. Harris it was anomalous. What would you suggest in substitution for it where Colonies want to build a railway?—I suggest a system which has been followed in the Malay States with great success.

900. What is that? Suppose that a Colony wants to build a railway?—The Government appointed its own railway engineers.

901. (Sir Francis Mowatt.) The local Government?—Yes, it appointed its own engineers just as it would appoint its own doctor and its own public works man.

902. (Chairman.) Then they would proceed to advertise for tenders for locomotives, and the Crown Agents would not come in at all?—Yes. Some of the work at first was done through contractors, but we found it was not satisfactory, and eventually it has all been done by the Government departmentally, small sub-contracts being given out, but the whole of the work being done under the control of the Government instead of by contractors.

903. (Sir Ralph Moor.) But you had a consulting engineer?—They were the very same consulting engineers. We had no voice in that matter.

904. But you had your own working staff?—We were not allowed to choose our own consulting engineers.

905. In the Malay States?—Yes, we were not allowed to choose our own consulting engineers.

906. (Chairman.) Who chose them for you?—The Colonial Office or the Crown Agents.

907. (Sir Francis Mowatt.) I think the question asked by the Chairman was; What was the system you would approve of?—That is it.

908. I understand you would approve of consulting engineers chosen by the Colony?—Yes.

909. We were not talking at the moment of what really happened in that instance, but we were talking of what system you would recommend?—The system that was followed in the Malay States. I do not think it matters whether the Colonial Office or the Crown Agents, or the Colony choose the consulting engineers; so long as they are people of reputation I do not think it matters in the least. All I mean is that they ought to have nothing to do with the construction, and they ought not to have anything to do with the appointment of the resident engineers who carry out the work, except by request.

910. (Chairman.) I quite see your point?—As we are talking about that, I might mention that, when the Malay States had been constructing railways on this plan for at least twelve years, all of a sudden, without asking us anything at all, an engineer was sent out from England to go and inspect all the lines and make a report to the consulting engineers for the benefit of the Crown Agents. We never asked for him; we could have supplied the whole of the information that it took him a long time to acquire, but to our great surprise at the end we were told to pay the bill.

911. (Mr. Harris.) Are you certain that in your absence somebody did not ask for him?—Absolutely positive.

912. It seems to me an extraordinary thing to happen.—I am positive about it.

913. I did not know that the Colonial Office had a double life?—I am absolutely positive and there is no question about it, because I said something about thinking it was strange that we should be asked to pay for this gentleman whom we had never asked for at all, as we could have supplied all the information which it took

him some time to acquire, and, of course, he had to come to us for it.

914. Do you remember who was Under-Secretary then?—No, I could not tell you.

915. (Chairman.) Had the Crown Agents anything to do with it?—Yes.

916. They sent him out?—I do not know whether it was the Crown Agents or the consulting engineers who sent him out, but what they wrote was that the Crown Agents had suddenly asked the consulting engineers for a Report on the Malay States Railways, and in order to obtain that the consulting engineers appointed this man and sent him out. He only stayed in the place about six weeks; of course, he had to go to everybody for all the information he got, and then he wrote a Report, and we were told to pay for it. That is all that happened.

917. It has not happened again so far as you know—No, we said something about it at the time.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, March 20th.

THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY.

In a few days the Diet will be closed. Its chief work this session has been the passage with amendments of the Government Bills amending the existing laws for the encouragement of shipbuilding and navigation. The object of these measures is to abolish the fixed rate of subsidy paid hitherto and to empower the Government to give financial aid necessary to the development of marine enterprise and according to trade necessities. The principles of the old and new laws are therefore widely different. Under the old laws the tendency was for shipping to expand apart from the need for it, and the present depression may be attributed in no small degree to this fact. Ships were built above a certain tonnage not so much because they were required but because they became entitled to the Government bounty in consequence, and so with the great liners. The Pacific is navigated by vessels of nearly as great capacity as those of the Atlantic, but what comparison is there between the trade of the two oceans, either passenger or freight? Experience has shown that vessels of moderate type are best adapted for the Pacific trade, but competition and government bounties have produced vessels of enormous capacity which can only pay in seasons of good trade. With the lean years they become veritable white elephants, an enormous expense to their owners, who must run them, nevertheless if they are to maintain the credit of their country and earn their subsidy. The Diet has amended these Government Bills making it necessary that the consent of the Diet be given to each separate amount of subsidy granted each company. This takes the responsibility of fixing the amount out of the Government's hands and is designed to prevent collusion between government and shipping company officials. The new grants in aid to be given to the European, and North and South American lines have been published accordingly, the Government submitting to the Diet, the figures which provide for the five years 1910-14, after which the subsidies will come up for further consideration. Spread over the five years the European (N. Y. K.) line will receive a grand total of 16,133,971 yen or about 34 millions each year, the North American lines a little in excess of this sum, 16,559,595 yen; and the South American line (T. K. K.) 3,364,023 yen in almost equal proportions yearly. Yesterday, in the Diet, a Government delegate replying to questions, declared the separate lines to ports so closely situated as Seattle (N. Y. K.) and Tacoma (O. S. K.) were necessitated by the connection of the lines with the Great Northern and Milwaukee Railways.

PRESENT POSITION AND THE FUTURE.

Not many years ago the Japanese shipping industry, favoured by good trade the world over and by generous subsidies at home, enjoyed enviable prosperity. To-day extreme slackness in shipping comes concurrently with the Government's disturbance of the subsidising system both to ocean steamers and to shipbuilding yards. The only consolation for the ship-

owner here is that he is not alone in experiencing the effects of widespread business depression, but that the energetic Germans, for whom the Japanese have much admiration, are in the same boat, as well as the unenterprising and unconcerned Briton. It has been apparent in the present session of the Diet that the Government intends in its methods of granting subsidies to obtain closer control over the way in which the money is used, but the Diet, by the amendment above noticed, has also shown its determination to exercise some little control. The Toyo Kisen Kaisha will resume its South American Service under the new auspices. Its line will start at Hongkong and part at Hawaii one ship going to the States and the other to the South. This raises the question whether it is not yet premature to start such a line, even with a good subsidy. In the matter of the advisability of shipping emigrants to South America opinion widely differs in the Diet and the Government's policy does not find whole-hearted support. But this is the Government's policy and it is only because of this policy that the T. K. K. will resume an enterprise which has already once failed. If with further experience the enterprise again fails the question arises if the Government will be prepared to make good any loss incurred by the shareholders. One of the evils Japanese companies, not only shipping, who accept Government help suffer under is that they not only lose independence of action but must become factors in the carrying out of Government policy which may be politically wise but commercially unsound.

SHIPPING DIVIDENDS.

A large meeting of shareholders of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha has decided to accept the directors' report on the last half-year's working which shows a loss of 800,000 yen. The last but one dividend paid by the T. K. K. was at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, the last 5 per cent. and from 5 per cent. to zero is the result of six months' bad trade. The 50 yen paid-up shares of the company now stand at 18 yen or at a lower figure even than those of the discredited, almost bankrupt, Dai Nippon Sugar Co. (whose failure, by the way, has caused the suspension of the biggest bill broker in Osaka, the Fujimoto firm). That the scrip of a first-class company, working such vessels as the *Tenyo* and *Chiyo*, should fall in this fashion, is a striking indication of the sense of insecurity felt by the public in even sound investments or such that ought to be considered sound. No one ever knows what hare-brained proposal may be simmering in the official mind with some quixotic moral or other improving object or when it may be launched forth to the infinite injury of any concern in which money is invested. The absurd pari-mutuel abolition has struck deeply into the investors' mind and he realises that the Government may do almost what it likes with his money. Allowing even for a temporary period of bad business the shares of such a company as the T. K. K. would never have fallen so low as 18 yen but for the bogey the Government has created for shareholders by grandmotherly interference in business. While the directors of the T. K. K. are confident of the future, their confidence does not extend to the share market. Judged by this criterion the company's shares are much less desirable than those of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha which, while of half the value, are quoted at only a yen lower. This company has been paying a six per cent. dividend for the past three years partly out of reserves, and is fighting against very hard competition in the China trade. Its position is much the same as that of the T. K. K., but there is a wide diversity in the quotation of their shares. It is probable also that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha will have a very indifferent report to present to shareholders for the present half-year, one statement reducing the prospective dividend from 12 to 8 per cent. The premier line is also suffering from the common depression.

THE POLITICAL FIRMAMENT.

Is it possible that there is to be a real, sound opposition party in Japan? All through the present session there has been much muttering in the various camps, the Yushin, Boshin, Daido and other factions or clubs. The Seiyukai, so-called government party, of course stands aloof, but the Shimpoto, Count Okuma's creation and which under his leadership ap-

proached nearest to what an opposition party ought to be lost its former strength with its great leader, who retired a couple of years ago, probably disgusted with his following. Since then it has been rent in twain and now there are reformists and non-reformists of the Shimpoto. But despite petty intrigue among all sections and in every party the conviction is growing that Japan must have an effective opposition if it is to be governed on constitutional lines. Sporadic efforts in this direction culminated yesterday in an organised attempt of the Yushinkai to enlist the members of other clubs under one common opposition banner. A manifesto and platform were issued and these were submitted to the Boshin Club, Daido Club, and Shimpoto members. The reception of the movement was not at all disheartening, but what seems to be sadly wanting is a leader. There is no lack of able men and there is no lack of high ideals. But the higher the ideals the lower the parties seem capable of descending in the political mire. It would be a good thing for Japanese politics if Count Okuma could be induced to once more try the experiment of heading an opposition party.

THE PARI-MUTUEL.

In expressing opposition to Government proceedings the Japanese are capable of some extraordinary feats, which would be laughable if the consequences were not often enough very serious. To-day, for example, what is described as a very gallant cavalcade rode rapidly along Hibiya Park in the direction of the Diet. This building is surrounded by police during the session, and a score of the worthy preservers of the peace very quickly mobilised and barred the way of the horsemen. The latter tamely explained that they were jockies, and hearing that the House of Peers was likely to deal harshly with the pari-mutuel bill, which has already passed the Diet, they intended to go and remonstrate! The news is to hand that a hundred similar horsemen are riding from Yokohama with a similar object in view. Mounted police and a squadron of the Bodyguard have been dispatched to reason with them. The fate of the measure for the revival of the pari-mutuel under severe restrictions is probably sealed, for the Upper House is known to be against it, but it looks as if it will be the last measure legislated upon by the Peers before the prorogation.

THE TRIPLE BILL AT THE THEATRE.

The ladies who organised the performance given in the Theatre on Saturday night in aid of the funds of the Eyre Refuge have good reason to be pleased with the success of their undertaking from every point of view. The Triple Bill attracted a crowded house, and the interest of the audience was well sustained from beginning to end. Owing to the length of the programme it was intimated that no encores could be given, but applause was unstinted and a number of floral tributes were handed to the ladies on the stage in appreciation of their efforts. Their Excellencies the Governor, the Admiral and the General were occupying seats in the dress circle.

The first piece given was "Papa's Wife" a musical comedietta by Mr. Seymour Hicks. The scene is set in the drawing room of Sir John Singleton, a widower who has recently married a widow, and while they are away on the honeymoon Sir John's grown-up son writes to announce that he will pay them a visit at their home. Kate, the widow's grown-up daughter, who has been left in charge of the house opens the letter and learns from it that Gerald is unaware of her existence. While she is still undecided as to how to act Gerald arrives, and as he assumes the attractive young lady who receives him to be his step-mother, she keeps up the delusion. So fascinating does Gerald find his step-mother that he laments exceedingly that the good fortune of marrying her had been his father's and not his. Disillusion comes on the receipt of a telegram from Sir John announcing that he and his wife are on their way home. It does not take Gerald long to recover from the shock of surprise, and he and

Kate are coming to the point when the curtain drops. Miss Ella Rowe acted the part of Kate with a naturalness and charm which delighted the audience. Lieut. Commander Lloyd-Thomas, R.N., admirably filled the rôle of Gerald, and Mr. W. G. Worcester made the most of the minor part of the butler. Altogether the place was capitally interpreted.

The second item of the bill was a comedy by G. M. Bryant named The "Peace Maker." In this piece a young married couple, Joyce and Richard Harford, have quarrelled and separated, and Elizabeth Lavender a spinster who before the marriage was on close terms of friendship with Joyce, feigns ignorance of the separation which had occurred while she was travelling abroad, and arranges a little dinner on her return, to which Joyce and Richard, as well as Dr. Burton, and old lover of Elizabeth's, were invited, Elizabeth's object being to effect a reconciliation of the young couple. Dinner begins gloomily, for the meeting of Joyce and Richard was unexpected. Conversation at the table drags and is confined to a few banalities about the weather. By pre-arrangement, the Doctor is suddenly summoned away on professional business and shortly afterwards the hostess herself is called to the cook who has got into hysterics. Thus the young couple who had quarrelled, are left to themselves. Both had secretly longed for a reconciliation, but neither had found the courage to make the overture. Now, alone with each other they feign an aloofness that is felt by neither, but presently a thaw sets in. There is reconciliation in the end and before the hostess has returned from her attendance on the hysterical cook, Joyce (whose suspicions that it had all been pre-arranged by Elizabeth had been unwittingly confirmed by the parlor maid) leaves the house, accompanied by her husband. Feminine perversity, however, asserts itself to the last. Not wishing that Elizabeth should take credit for the success of her plans, Joyce leaves a curt note in which she roundly abuses Elizabeth for meddling in the delicate affairs of other people. Elizabeth has scarcely finished reading this startling note, when Dr. Burdon returns, and as he had been strolling outside the house all the time and had seen Richard and Joyce enter a cab together and direct the driver to go to the Carlton Hotel, he is able to lift a great burden from the soul of Elizabeth. Then it is the Doctor's turn and he and Elizabeth are leaving for the Carlton too when the curtain falls.

The piece was admirably staged and most excellently acted. The acting of Mrs Hastings as the hostess and of Mrs. Gompertz as Joyce Harford gave unbounded satisfaction. Mrs. Worthington took the minor character of the parlourmaid and had very little to say but when she told Joyce between her sobs that her mistress had unbraided her for calling the doctor too soon and for anticipating by several minutes the cook's hysterics she did it admirably. Mr. H. W. Bird, too, as the doctor was excellent, and Mr. W. J. Daniel creditably took the part of Joyce's husband. Great applause followed the fall of the curtain.

The last item of the triple bill was an admirably arranged *pot pourri*, for which we believe Mrs. Dooner was responsible. The Curtain rose on a group of strolling players encamped around a fire at night, on the estate of a gentleman whose son is about to be married. Coming suddenly upon them he conceives the idea of engaging them for the marriage festivities and the members of the troop give the old gentleman and his son a private rehearsal of their entertainment which included songs and dances, a whistling solo, a quartette ("Brightly won our wedding day") and banjo performances. Those taking part in this item included Mrs. Badeley, Capt. and Mrs. Beasley, Mr. F. G. Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Cochran, Capt. and Mrs. Dooner, Dr. Hooper, R.N., Capt. Murray, Capt. and Mrs. Penfold, Miss Ella Rowe, Mrs. Wait, and Mr. W. G. Worcester.

By kind permission of the Commander-in-Chief, the Captain and Officers the Band of H.M.S. *King Alfred* played some much appreciated selections during the intervals, and altogether the evening was one which the audience thoroughly enjoyed.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

A JAPANESE COMPLIMENT.

Tokyo, April 1st.

Prince Fushimi has been appointed as a special envoy to the obsequies of the deceased Emperor and Dowager Empress of China.

BASELESS REPORTS.

Tokyo, April 1st.

Peking officials state that the reports that China is proposing arbitration and that Japan is refusing are groundless.

FAMOUS TEMPLE DESTROYED.

Tokyo, April 1st.

Jojoji the famous temple at Shiba, has been destroyed by fire and damage amounting to a million yen has been done.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE CHINESE NAVY.

Peking, March 30th.

The Chinese Government has decided to award those who give financial assistance for the development of the Chinese Navy with high official rank.

PROHIBITION OF LOTTERIES.

Peking, March 31st.

It is the intention of the Government to prohibit the running of lotteries within twelve months.

FOREIGN ENGINEERS NOT WANTED.

Peking, March 31st.

Tih Liang, President of the Board of Military Affairs, has disapproved of the appointment of Foreign Engineers to superintend the construction of naval docks in China.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY MANAGEMENT.

Peking, March 31st.

Owing to complaints which have been made concerning the management of the Canton-Hankow Railway, Grand Secretary Chang Chih-tung has despatched an officer named Ko Ling Wai to Canton to make investigations.

Admiral Li Chun and Provincial Treasurer Wu have been asked to assist him in his labours.

CHINA'S NAVAL ANTICIPATIONS.

Peking, April 1st.

The Peking Government have wired to the Chinese Minister at Tokyo asking him to consult the Japanese Government with a view to admitting more students into the Japanese naval college.

CIGARETTE SMOKING IN CHINA.

Peking, April 1st.

The Powers have refused to allow China to impose heavier taxation on cigarettes.

[This is the outcome of a proposition made some time ago by a Chinese official that increased duties be levied with a view to stopping the importation of cigarettes in China, the smoking of which was a great evil.]

CHINESE REFORMERS.

Peking, April 1st.

Li King Hi, the newly appointed Viceroy of Yunnan and Kweichow, has requisitioned the Throne to forgive the reformers Kang Yu Wei and Liang Kai Chiu. The Prince Regent has refused.

Little more than a casual inspection of the worm-eaten condition of the Oriente Hotel building at Manila has been necessary to prove that several thousand pesos will have to be added to the P650,000 the insular government paid for it in 1903. While the building is not actually dangerous at the present time it has been found that more than ordinary expenditure by the construction division of the Bureau of Public Works will be required to make it safe for future occupancy.

THE ACCIDENT TO THE S.S. "KUTSANG."

THE CAPTAIN EXONERATED.

A Naval Court of Inquiry consisting of Navigating Lieut. Harman of H.M.S. *Astraea* (President), Mr. O. R. Coales, H.M. Vice-Consul, and Captain Lavers of the str. *Chengtu* sat at Shanghai on the 24th inst. to hear evidence with regard to the accident which recently took place to the Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer *Kutsang*, which was beached at Chim Island, Haitan Straits, after she had struck a submerged rock.

Assistant Paymaster Perkins of H.M.S. *Astraea* was Clerk of the Court; Mr. W. F. Inglis of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company attended on behalf of the owners of the *Kutsang*.

Captain R. C. D. Bradley of the Indo-China Steamship Co.'s steamer *Kutsang*, read a statement to the Court. He said that on March 4, in the early morning, there was a strong North-east by North wind and the tide was favourable for passing through the narrows of the Haitan Straits, and at daylight the ship was heading towards the south entrance to the Haitan Straits. The course was altered three times and immediately after the last time the ship struck something on the starboard side. As far as he could judge, it was a sliding blow without any shock to the ship and of short duration with absolutely no cessation of the ship's speed through the water. The speed of the ship at the time was eleven knots. It was a dark morning, but the weather was perfectly clear and as the south entrance was charted free from danger he had no hesitation in directing the ship's course. At the time of the striking the chief officer was on the bridge. At the request of witness the chief officer reported that there were three, and one and a half feet of water in the foreholds. The passengers were told to get up and dress, but not to be alarmed as there was no danger to life. The lifeboats were also lowered. As the next soundings showed that the water was rising rapidly in both the forward holds and that the No. 2 ballast tank was full, and it could be seen that the ship was settling down by the head, witness after a careful look at the chart, decided to ground the ship on a mud flat to the South-west on the lee side of Chim Island. The vessel was put at full speed and she went at full speed on the mud flat. She beached quite easily. From the effect of the blows that were struck witness considered that the ship had struck a rock, but there was no ripple of tide there. Where the ship was struck she was drawing about fifteen feet. The maximum draught of the *Kutsang* was twenty-four feet ten and a half inches loaded, and at the time of the accident she was only partially loaded. On leaving Hongkong the draught of the ship was fifteen feet six, and eighteen feet, but witness reckoned that they had lightened by six inches coming up so that at the time of the accident she would be drawing about fifteen feet and seventeen feet nine inches. The stern was not touched at all. Witness was under the impression that it was a rounded pinnacle of rock, a small rock of no great extent, that the vessel struck. Witness had been through the channel many times before. He brought this ship out from England in 1905.

C. B. Tweedy, First Officer of the *Kutsang*, deposed that on the morning of the accident he was on watch from four to eight o'clock, he having relieved the Second Officer. When she struck the ship had just been steadied on her course.

A. S. Latta, Chief Engineer, said that he was in bed at the time of the accident. He did not feel any shock beyond a grating, and he got up to ascertain what was the cause. Afterwards he had the pumps going in both No. 1 and No. 2 holds. He estimated the speed of the ship at about ten and a half knots.

J. E. Dallas, Second Engineer, stated that he was on watch at the time of the accident, but he did not know that the vessel had touched. His first order was to start the pumps going in No. 1 and No. 2 holds. He would say that the speed of the vessel was about eleven knots.

Mr. Inglis asked if he could give Captain Bradley's record for the information of the Court. He had been a very long time in the employ of the Company.

The President said that he did not think this would be necessary.

Captain George Payne deposed that he was the Marine Superintendent to the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company. Witness wished to say that Captain Bradley was one of the most capable Masters that there were in the employ of the Company. Had it not been for this Court of Inquiry having been held witness would have had to make a report of this accident in which Captain Bradley would have been absolved from all blame.

The Court found that the steamship *Kutsang* struck a submerged obstacle about six cables E. N-E from the islet of the Double Yitts believed to be an uncharted rock and that the Captain Bradley navigated his ship with care and in a seamanlike manner and that no blame is attributable to him and that after the accident his prompt action avoided what might have been a serious casualty and also that no blame is due to any of the other officers of the ship and that proper discipline was maintained.

A TRADE MARK CASE.

The Pathe Phono Cinema-Chine, through its sub-manager, Francis Arnold, proceeded against B. D. Casley, proprietor of the Star Cinematograph, before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 30th on a charge of falsely applying a trade mark.

Defendant, who was represented by Mr. Reader Harris (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) pleaded not guilty, Mr. D. V. Steavenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the prosecution.

Mr. Steavenson informed the Court that the prosecution was brought under the Merchandise Marks Ordinance, the complainants being the Pathe Phono Cinema-Chine who were the owners of trade marks on cinematograph films known as Pathe Freres. Pathe Freres were a firm carrying on business in London, Paris and New York. Last week a new cinematograph show known as the "Star" opened in Wyndham Street, the defendant being the manager. Among the films exhibited was one entitled "The Veiled beauty" at the end of which appeared a "Cock" trademark, with the words Pathe Freres underneath. The prosecution, hearing that there was a film bearing their mark being exhibited, applied for a search warrant, the result being that a film was discovered bearing the trademark belonging to Pathe Freres.

After hearing evidence his Worship imposed a fine of \$50, ordered the defendant to pay \$50 costs, and to return the film to complainant within seven days.

SHANGHAI TRADE.

Messrs. Ilbert and Co.'s latest Report on the Piece Goods Market says:—

Again the weather has much interfered with the movement of cargo, and has retarded enquiry from many outlets. In grey goods generally, there has been an easy tone and prices all round are down slightly, Hankow buyers in particular being very timid in coming forward for fresh purchases. The Newchwang steamers have not yet cleared, but are said now to be taking 4,000 packages of Piece Goods, of which 1,200 Bales are American Sheetings. It is too early to say as yet how demand for that market is likely to open out, but natives anticipate that the recent growth of the Northern export trade is bound to find its reflection in a good demand for imports.

Clearances as a whole have been upon a satisfactory scale of late, and are more than keeping pace with imports in nearly every class, the total number of pieces of all denominations cleared since 1st January this year, being 2,393,673, against imports of 1,523,767 pieces. As to stocks, a comparison of the present situation with that of the past two years shows a very considerable improvement in the overbought position from which this market has so long been suffering. The figures are as follows:—

Total pcs.	1909	1908	1907
in stock	pcs.	pcs.	pcs.
at date	7,388,305	10,425,742	14,691,822

Large auction sales are at present absorbing a considerable amount of the attention of buyers and tend to keep prices unduly low, but the low exchange has encouraged exports and this should have its due effect in stimulating an improved enquiry from the various country outlets as the spring season (which is backward this year) progresses.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 2nd April:—The prices are further declining, market being weak.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.50	to	\$4.55
" Round, Good quality	\$4.60	to	4.65
" Long	\$4.90	to	4.95
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	\$4.85	to	4.90
" Garden, " No. 1	\$4.70	to	4.75
" White,	\$4.75	to	4.80
" Fine Cargo	\$5.00	to	5.05

COAL.

HONGKONG, April, 2nd.—The arrivals of coal since the 18th ultimo amounted to 22,700 tons of Japanese, 5,600 Hongay 3,000, Pulo Laut and 2,500 Chin Wan Tao. The coal expected is 58,500 tons Japanese, 11,900 tons Australian, 1,200 tons Hongay, and 4,000 tons Borneo. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$23.50	ex-godown, nominal.
Australian	\$12.50	ex-godown, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	Nominal.
Miiki Lump	\$10.50	to \$11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$7.75	to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00	to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75	to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump	\$9.00	ex-ship sellers.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, April 1st.—Since the 18th ulto, the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian
Stocks on the 18th Mar., 1909—3,995	2,999	677	1,000	
Mar. 24th Imports per <i>Bookang</i> —	370	125	—	—
" 29th " " <i>E. Simons</i> —	100	—	—	—
" 30th " " <i>Laisang</i> —	265	125	—	—
" 31st " " <i>Devanaha</i> —	—	—	—	24
	3,995	2,634	927	1,024
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	—	255	50	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight ..	1624	488	251	125

Estimated Stocks this day .. 3,8324 2,891 626 899

Bengal.—An improvement in the consumption and the low price ruling have induced the Chinese to separate to a larger extent, but the demand being satisfied prices have again declined to \$940. for Patna and \$955. for Benares.

Malwa.—There has been a falling off in the demand for new drug and more enquiry for old, which we quote at \$1,100/1,130. for 3 to 4 years and \$1,150/85. for 5 to 6 years.

Persian.—We quote superior drug at \$1,020/30, with a very small enquiry.

HONGKONG, April, 1st.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,070/1,080	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,090/1,100	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,110/1,140	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,150/1,185	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,020/1,050	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$850/800	do.
Patna New	\$930	per chest.
Patna Old	\$960	do.
Benares New	\$945	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

SUGAR.

Kobe, 16th March.—Cane.—Raw.—Taiwan Sugar.—The market has a slightly stronger feeling and a fair amount of business has been done. Java Sugar.—The market has declined. Muscovados Basis 96% Polarisation, Colour 124 average is quoted at Yen 6.10 per picul ex ship. Osaka Refined.—The usual auctions took place on the 3rd and 13th when 4,000 and 3,500 bags were offered respectively, both of which being withdrawn.

COTTON.

Kobe, 16th March.—Cotton.—American.—Prices have fluctuated within a small range since our last report, latest quotation of "forward" Middling being given at Yen 31.50. "Spot" is quiet, and closes at Yen 30.50. Indian.—Prices have been maintained fairly high, notwithstanding quiet conditions prevailing in the American market. Quotations are on an upward tendency, but no business of importance has been done, with the exception of some transactions in Broach. "Spot" is quiet owing to the arrivals of contracted cargoes and to the fact that holders are demanding high prices. Broach is quoted at Yen 26.50; Akola Yen 23.75; and Bengal at Yen. 23.00. Chinese.—The high prices now quoted prohibit all prospects of combining business for the time being. "Forward" is quoted at Yen 26.50 to Yen 27.00. "Spot" is quiet. Best closes at Yen 26.00, and Common at Yen 23.00. Shirting.—There is no amelioration in the conditions reported in our last circular. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Worsted and Woollens.—The market for spot goods continues very dull, clearances are poor, and enquiries for forward arrival are conspicuous by their absence. Metals.—Market continues depressed with very little demand forthcoming, the only exception being Tinplates where prices show a slight improvement on account of the advent of the canning season and as stocks have passed into stronger hands. Rice.—Market inactive.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

IMPORTS.

Yokohama, 15th March, 1909.—Cotton Yarns.—This market remains in a moribund condition. Cotton Piece Goods.—Except for a small business passing in Greys, there is practically nothing doing. Woollens and Woollen Mixtures.—This being the "off" season, there is nothing to report. Textiles Generally.—The Cotton Piece Goods market in Tokyo seems to be somewhat upset over one big failure in Osaka and a reported impending similar fate of one or two others in that district. Raw Cotton.—Market remains quiet. Values in producing countries, especially in India, show an upward tendency. Rice.—This market is in the same weak and declining condition as last reported. Metals.—Business is still very quiet, and save for small transactions reported in Bars there is nothing passing. Window Glass continues dull with home prices unchanged. Considerable stocks are held here which are slow to move. Kerosine Oil.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of March show Standard Oil Co., arrivals 108,000 cases; deliveries, 7,160 cases. Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals nil; deliveries 2,800 units. Sugar.—Nothing of interest has occurred during the interval. Flour.—Owing to increased price of Wheat and small stocks on hand, Japan milled Flour is in good demand at considerably enhanced prices. Wheat.—The home market continues to rule firm with a tendency to a still further rise.

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 2nd April states:—There is much less doing in this market and the past fortnight has been comparatively quiet. A few small sales are reported, but buyers will not pay these prices unless for their most pressing wants. Spot stocks are exhausted, and any small parcels of desirable spinning close at hand are taken up at or about present values. Dealers, however, continue to act with extreme caution and refrain from contracting for long delivery. Most of the buying has been for price, and consequently the demand has run principally on medium grades to the neglect of the high-priced superior favourite spinnings. Prices

on the whole are fairly well up to previous quotations which however, do not allow much for the depreciation in exchange. The last few days practically nothing has been done, and although prices are fairly steady the tone of the market at the close appears to be somewhat weak. Bombay continues strong with but little business doing for the Far East. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 2,533 bales, arrivals amount to 2,572 bales, unsold stock estimated at 8,000 bales, and sold but uncleared bales in second hands at about 18,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—No business is reported. Japanese Yarn:—There is no change in the continued quietness of these threads. Raw Cotton:—Both Indian and China descriptions are weaker but holders are not anxious sellers, as advices from the producing market point to a higher range of values, and recent arrivals of Bengal staple are passed on to Japan where there is a good demand at better prices. A small parcel of 75 bales Thoongchow has been taken up at \$30. Stocks Indian nil and China 350 bales. Quotations are Indian \$23 to 27 and China \$25 to 31. Exchange on India has continued steady at Rs. 130½ for T/T, and Rs. 130½ for Post and closes to-day at Rs. 130½ and Rs. 131 respectively. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 84½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 24th ultimo, viz:—Indian:—The market started well, but has made no headway at all, and indeed has gone back a little. Total sales about 2,000 bales and estimated stock landing and in godown about 27,000 bales. Japanese:—Market quiet but steady. Total sales about 3,500 on the basis of Tls. 102 to 109½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 109 to 118 for No. 20s, prices showing a further advance of 3 to 4 Taels. Local:—Market is bare of spot cargo and forward sales of about 3,300 bales have been effected on the basis of Tls. 90 for No. 10s, Tls. 95 to 97½ for No. 14s, and Tls. 101 to 105½ for No. 16s showing a further advance of half to five Taels in values.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 26th March, 1909, state:—In spite of the promised improvement in the weather at the close of our last it has really been worse than ever during the interval and has greatly interfered with clearances. Three steamers were advertised to leave for Newchwang this morning, but owing to the excessive wet, are postponed until to-morrow, it fortunately being bright and favourable for shipping to day. It is estimated that they will take 10,000 packages Piece goods and Yarn between them, comprising some 1,500 bales Yarn, 3,500 packages English goods and the rest American, so the market should not be over loaded at the outset. The news from thence continues favourable, but the state of Manchuria generally is not so certain, and it is generally feared that no satisfactory arrangements have been made to finance the trade. There must be plenty of money, the returns for the produce sold waiting for investment, a good proportion of which is being held in Newchwang in all probability, so there should not be much delay in getting remittances for fresh purchases here. There is a quiet but steady demand for Tientsin, to which market moderate supplies are going all the time. This is no doubt better for the position there than rushing large quantities forward at one time and overwhelming the demand, so it is hoped the more cautious tactics will have a beneficial effect. So far as this market is concerned buyers seem determined to extract their utmost out of holders and are going to give them at all a pleasant time. The trade with the River and and Szechuen markets, judging by the off-take for the different markets, is not altogether unsatisfactory, but the demand is being supplied from cargo in Native hands and the Auctions, little or no replacing orders being booked privately. The buying in New York has continued and it is estimate amounts to fully as much as done last week, say 20,000 bales, but more distributed, prices being well maintained. In this connection the following extracts culled from a recently received journal explains somewhat the attitude now taken up by manufacturers in the States:—"Little more than hope is evident in the export trade as far as business with China is concerned. It has been expected that a certain amount of demand would be forthcoming immediately after the Chinese New Year, but these expectations have not been realized and no one is willing to predict just when the Chinaman is likely to appear in the market. It

is admitted that all mail advices regarding market conditions in the Empire show a decided improvement as compared with the status before the first of the year, but a very marked buying movement will have to take place to equal the business which was consummated during January. With the depletion of stocks in China, which is evidently going on more or less continuously, it would seem as though there were warrant for believing in business for the future, though just exactly when it is to arrive is a matter of conjecture. The majority of buyers believe that when buying does commence again it will be for the lighter weights, for no one anticipates many additional orders on heavy sheeting, or drills, which still remain in the largest supply in the China market. Little complaint is heard from the buyer as to the market price of goods. He admits the condition of the manufacturer that on few lines of goods is the margin over and above the cost of production an abnormal one. Here and there is to be found a manufacturer who is taking advantage of a fairly wide demand to make up for the losses which he incurred during last year. But it cannot be said with any measure of truthfulness that prices show a radical advance, nor are they to-day unreasonably high, based on the cost of raw material. While there has been and continues to be more or less scepticism regarding the maintenance of raw material prices, yet the great majority is to be no radical slump in cotton figures and that changes are more likely to occur in the direction of higher levels than of lower. On these basis there is every reason for manufacturers who have their product well under orders to maintain a firm attitude in the face of certain arguments by the buyers why concessions should be made him. It would seem as though export business were delayed because of the fact that certain China houses which have bought nothing are not anxious to be placed on a higher level than competitors. These buyers are likely to await developments, and if there should be any revision in prices they would come into the market for additional amounts. It is stated that during 1908 three China houses bought 55,000 bales out of an approximate total of 80,000 bales. This indicates the elimination of a good many small factors whose losses have compelled them to withdraw. In view of the satisfactory advices received by mail from China, those interested in export business are inclined to believe that there will be a renewal of demand in the near future. It is encouraging to note that the exports of cotton goods to Aden during the past year have amounted to over 35,000 bales, with the prospect that this total will be considerably surpassed this year. It is also confidently predicted that the total of 100,000 bales to China in 1909 will be much surpassed during the current year, and many are inclined to believe that the aggregate of 1906 will be equalled. The anticipations as quoted above are evidently going to be realised to a very large extent, as the purchases during the last two weeks amount to fully 40,000 bales, and those made earlier in the year to 30,000 bales. It is a moot question whether this is not rather rushing things, before it is known with any degree of certainty if the demand from the North will warrant such extensive buying in face of the supply already here on the spot. The shipments, however, will be somewhat extended, the goods not arriving here until the Fall. The Manchester market is undoubtedly easier, although perhaps not uniformly. Cotton is lower in Liverpool and is advised to-day at 4.93d. for spot Mid. American, and 4.90d. for June/July option. Egyptian remains unchanged at 7½d. We are told the fortnightly export figures portend another heavy shipment for the month. Cotton in New York has ruled easier during the interval, dropping to 9.16 cents for July, but to-day a recovery is advised to 9.24 cents for that month. The Yarn market is quieter, buyers evidently finding the recent prices too dangerous to indulge in and are withholding any further orders they may have in anticipation of a decline. The high prices in Osaka for this month are due to a corner made by speculators and are not likely to be maintained, so that lower prices may be expected here. Native Cotton is very firm, and supplies are readily taken on arrival. The private market, so far as sales from stock are concerned, remains almost a blank. In English goods scarcely anything has been done either from goods on hand or forward arrival, though we have heard of a few replacing orders going through in Manchester. There is no doubt but that a large proportion of the recent purchases in New York are for native account. The Auctions for staple makes have not gone at all well, all weights and qualities showing a decidedly lower tendency, which was confirmed this morning. Turkey

Reds were barely steady, while Fast Black Cotton Italians and Venetians were weaker on the whole. At the Yuen Fong sale last Thursday Camlets were a trifle firmer, but since then there has been no redeeming feature at any of the Auctions.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 2nd April, 1909.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—8lbs. piece	\$1.80	—
7 lbs. "	2.40	—
8.4 lbs. "	—	—
10 lbs. "	4.10 to	5.30
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.55 to	3.55
58/60 ..	3.65 to	5.95
64/66 ..	6.10 to	7.15
Fine..... "	8.05 to	9.15
Book-folds ..	8.15 to	6.15
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.65 to	1.80
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	1.95 to	2.20
7 lbs. "	2.25 to	3.85
6 lbs. "Mexicans," ..	—	—
7 lbs. "	2.70 to	3.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	3.20 to	4.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs. }	4.30 to	5.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 6 lbs. piece }	1.72 to	5.10
Brocades—Dyed yard	0.10 to	0.15
Chinese—Assorted ..	0.07½ to	0.35
Velvets—Black, 22 in., "	0.25 to	0.55
Velveteens—18 in., "	0.20 to	0.28
Handkerchiefs — Imitation } Silk per dozen }	0.50 to	4.00

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops ..	0.70 to	2.00
German, "	2.00	—
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, ..	1.25 to	3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	7.80 to	9.40
Assorted ..	7.90 to	9.40
Camlets—Assorted ..	—	—

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches }	14.00 to	21.00
Assorted }	—	—
Orleans—Plain..... "	9.00 to	12.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to	1.50

RAW COTTON—

Bombay picul	\$23.00 to	\$27.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon ..	—	—
and Dacca..... "	23.00 to	27.50
Shanghai and Japanese... "	24.00 to	28.00
Tungchow and Ningpo ... "	24.00 to	28.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod..... picul	\$ 4.10	—
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)... "	4.00	—
Swedish Bar ..	4.15	—
Small Round Rod ..	4.50	—
Hoop, ½ to 1½ in. "	5.60	—
Wire, 16/25 oz., ..	9.50	—
Old Wire Rope..... "	8.00	—
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ... "	10.10	—
Australian ..	10.80	—
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz. "	40.00	—
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., ..	40.00	—
Elliott's, 16/28 oz. "	40.00	—
Tin, "	89.00	—
Tin-Plates, box	7.60	—
Steel cwt. case	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver, picul	172.00	—
Window Glass, box	5.60	—
Kerosene Oil, case	—	—
Saltpetre, No. 1 picul	\$11.00 to	12.00
Do. No. 2 ..	10.50 to	10.90
Do. No. 3 ..	10.00 to	10.40
Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs.	gross	\$2.55
Crown ..	3.75	—
Brown Bear ..	2.62	—
Warrior ..	3.50	—
Choice ..	2.62	—
White Lily ..	2.62	—
White Fawn ..	2.61	—
Morjon ..	2.61	—
Cow ..	2.61	—
Morning Glory ..	2.65	—

AMOY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Amoy Gazette and Shipping Report, of the 26th March, 1909, publishes the following principal goods passed through the Custom House.

IMPORTS.		Quantity
Cotton Raw, Italian ...	pls.	—
Cotton Raw, Native ...	"	24
Cotton Raw, Yarn ...	"	1,584
Shirtings, Grey ...	pcs.	920
T-Cloths ...	"	850
Shirtings, White ...	"	215
T. Red Shirtings ...	"	160
Drills ...	"	90
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades ...	"	—
Shirtings Dyed ...	"	—
Damasks ...	"	—
Camlets ...	"	11
Lasting ...	"	10
Spanish Stripes ...	yds.	299
Lustres, Figure ...	"	—
Lead, in pigs ...	pls.	—
Tin in slabs ...	"	162
Iron, Nail rod ...	"	—
Quicksilver ...	"	—
Iron, Old ...	"	—
Ironwire ...	"	—
Rice ...	"	48,426
Opium, Patna ...	"	1
Opium, Benares ...	"	63
Opium, Persian ...	"	3
Opium, Malwa ...	"	—
Opium, Szechuan ...	"	39
Opium, Yunnan ...	"	61
Opium, Shansi ...	"	6
Sesamum Seed ...	"	544
Sanpanwood ...	"	—
Sandalwood ...	"	24
Rattans ...	"	—
Wheat ...	"	4,684
Flour ...	"	3,978
Bean cake ...	"	25,672
Beans and Peas ...	"	34,002
Bicho de Mar ...	"	44
Mats Tea ...	pcs.	—
Oil, Kerosine American ...	galls.	—
Oil, Kerosine Ame. in bulk ...	"	—
Oil, Kerosine Borneo in bulk ...	"	—
Oil, Kerosine Russian ...	"	—
Oil, Kerosine Sumatra ...	"	—
Oil, Kerosine Bulk ...	"	—
Coal ...	"	1,910
Tobacco Leaf ...	pls.	331
Vermicelli ...	"	4.1
EXPORTS.		
Sugar, White ...	pls.	—
Sugar, Brown ...	"	1,964
Sugar, Candy ...	"	925
Hemp Bags ...	pcs.	21,200
Hemp Sacking ...	"	—
Paper I Quality ...	"	899
Paper II Quality ...	"	106
Tobacco Prepared ...	"	111
Kittys ds (umbrellas) ...	pcs.	150

EXPORTS:—

SILK

RAW SILK.—Our market continues quiet and inactive, and in some instances prices have receded slightly. As yet arrivals from the Interior are very small, but it is anticipated that further supplies will be coming down within the next fortnight, when trade may improve.

WASTE SILK.—Market quiet. Transactions are limited to small parcels. Settlements from Feb. 28th to March 10th, 1,400 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to March 10th, 53,700 piculs. Stock on March 11th is estimated at 6,000 piculs.

HABUTAI.

Kanazawa.—The market has experienced a severe set back owing to the withdrawal of nearly all buyers. Since the beginning of the month rates have declined from three to five per cent., and the few firm offers have probably been accepted at even lower prices. Echizen.—This market has also relapsed, but to a less extent. The demand from abroad has been most insignificant, and there is no immediate promise of any better state of affairs. Kawamata.—All qualities of this Habutai have declined, varying from two to five per cent., and there are no enquiries.

COPPER.

Copper.—Between 50 and 100 tons G.M.B. were bought by foreign firms, but London values have experienced another drop, not further transaction has been done. Fish Oil.—Stocks are cleared. Rice.—Weak with downward tendency. Cotton Yarn.—The market during the fortnight has been remarkable for the phenomenal rise which took place on the Osaka Yarn Bourse, on the 12th inst. the price for 20s. March delivery reached Yen 130 i.e. an advance of Yen 15 since the beginning of the month, the result of heavy gambling in the face of paucity of stocks. Quotations have since declined to Yen 10 per bale, but are still relatively high. Business for export has been quiet in consequence. Vegetable Wax.—Very little demand from abroad and only small business transacted. Matting.—The market continued weak. Requirements for the current season have almost been filled so the demand has fallen off. Straw Braid.—During the past fortnight it would appear that there has been a strong demand for Straw Plait in general; quotations have, however, remained stationary. Chip Braid.—The Chip Braid market shows renewed activity.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 17th March.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 38.50
Do. seconds	" 33.25
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 8.80
White China Grass, Sinshau and/or Chayu	" 7.90
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" 10.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 9.90
Animal Tallow	" 10.90
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 14.80
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 17.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Black Bristles, Riflings	" 107.00
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 51.0
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.60
Tea Oil	" —

Messrs Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, Dated Shanghai, 25th March, 1909. State:—Gallnut.—Market steady. Fair business. Cowhides.—Large stocks of heavy hides for which the demand from home is poor. Market weak in consequence. Feather.—Market quiet. Cotton.—The situation is unchanged. Local Mills continue to buy at top figures, which the home markets cannot pay. Talow.—Little demand. Market weakening. Wood Oil.—Our market has a declining tendency. Sesamum seed.—Supplies are coming in freely, but they all go to fill old contracts. Prices are in consequence fully maintained in spite of the small demand. Straw braid.—Several contracts have been placed by American for 15 End Stoya, and some business in spot cargo of inferior quality has been done in this article. Leichow Mottled is easier, with but small demand. Loyeh White and Kwangchow White are lower. Stocks in general are small. Wool.—Sheeps.—Arrivals of Szechuen Wool are at last increasing. Little business has resulted as yet as dealers ask exaggerated prices. Antimony.—Market continues firm. Better demand from home at prices which should lead to business.

Per s.s. *Albenga*, sailed on the 19th March, 1909:—For New York.—5 cases joss sticks, 6 pkgs. rattan furniture, 20 cases human hair, 35 cases paper, 50 straw cuffs, 50 cases camphor, 55 cases preserves, 404 bales canes, 432 bales canes, 432 bales rattan cores, 440 cases essential oil, 730 bales bamboosplit, 1,772 pkgs. Chinese merchandise, 1,995 pkgs. cassia, 7,957 fire crackers. For Boston.—58 pkgs. merchandise. For Baltimore.—45 pkgs. merchandise. For Philadelphia.—18 pkgs. merchandise. For Washington.—10 pkgs. merchandise. For Havana.—130 pkgs. merchandise.

Per M. M. steamer, *Nera*, sailed on 30th March 1909. For Marseilles—221, bales raw silk, 54 packages human hair, 4 cases silk goods, 9 cases merchandise, 40 cases Matches, 15 cases Hats 5 cases ylang ylang. For Havre—41 cases Porcelaine, 22 cases Phonographic Discs, 8 cases Human hair For Reunion—34 cases Provisions. For Mourice—66 cases Medicine. For Lyon—225 bales raw silk, For London—100 bales waste silk, 1 case grass cloth, 1 case Embroideries.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 2nd April.—There is no market. The prices are the same as last reported.

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 17th March.—Per Conference Steamers To London and Northern Continental ports 50/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 50/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 82/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1.50 cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per tm, weight or measurement.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 2nd April, 1909.—A fairly good investment business has been done during the past week, and rates with few exceptions show an important change. Barsilver is quoted at 23½d and sterling T. T. at 1/8½. The T. T. rate on Shanghai closes at 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have further receded, and after small sales at \$925 are now procurable at \$920. London is unchanged at £86. Nationals are still enquired for at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have been booked at \$850 and a few more shares are procurable at the rate. China Traders are in request at \$87½, and Yangtzes at the improved rate of \$215. Cantons are quiet but steady at \$187½.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Chinas have been sold at \$105 and \$106 and close with probable sellers at the former rate. Hongkongs have again been booked at \$315.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled steady with fair sales at \$29½, at which rate more shares can be placed. Indo-Chinas are also receiving attention, and sales have been effected at \$61 for preferred and deferred combined, market closing firm. China and Manila are easier with small sales at \$8 and \$7, closing with sellers at the former rate, and small buyers at the latter. Star Ferries are enquired for at \$23½ and \$15 for the old and new issues respectively, and Shell Transports at 54/- the latest London quotation for the latter is 55/3 sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$137½, \$135, and again at \$137½, closing firmer with buyers at the latter rate. Luzons are unchanged at \$17 sellers, and without local business.

MINING.—Charbonnages have buyers at \$600, and Rauba at \$8 after sales at the rate. Chinese Engineering are firm in the North with buyers at Tls. 18½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong & Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$80 and more shares are wanted. Kowloon Wharves after sales at \$48 and \$49 are now enquired for at \$50. There are buyers of New Amoy Docks at \$9½, and of Shanghai Docks at Tls. 85. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have receded to Tls. 162½ sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are easier with sellers and small sales at \$99. Kowloon Lands are quiet with probable buyers at \$30. West Points are obtainable at \$44, and Humphreys' Estate at \$8½ after sales at the rate and at \$8.65. Hongkong Hotels are reported to have been booked at \$83, but at this there are buyers. Shanghai Lands are unchanged at Tls. 115 nominal.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs continue on offer at \$9. In the North, Ewos have improved to Tls. 122, Laou Kung Mows to Tls. 108½ and Soy Chees to Tls. 335. Internationals are slightly easier at Tls. 91.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China-Borneos, have been booked at \$12½ and China Providents at \$9.25 and \$9.30. Cements have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$9.30 and \$9.40 closing with sellers at the latter rate. Electrics have further improved and after sales at \$19 and \$19½ can now be placed at \$19½. Irons are again easier with sellers at \$175. Union Water Boats have been booked at \$10 and Watkins at \$3.

MEMOS.—Company Meetings advertised—Green Island Cement Co. 3rd inst. China & Manila Steamship Co. 3rd inst. China Borneo Co. 5th inst. Union Insurance Society of Canton 21st inst. China Traders Insurance Co. 21st inst.

Quotations are as follows:—

Stocks	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra, Ltd.	Pa. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$92½, sellers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$10, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$12½, sellers
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$5
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 122
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 91
Laou Kung Mow...	Tls. 100	Tls. 103½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 385
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$14, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$50, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$80, buyers
New Amoy Dock...	\$34	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and	Tls. 100	Tls. 85,
Eng. Co., Ltd.		
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 162½
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$9.40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$19½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$83, sales
Hongkong Ice Co....	\$25	\$17½, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
H'kong Rope M. Co...	\$10	\$24
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$187½,
China Fire	\$20	\$10½,
China Traders	\$25	\$87½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sales & buy.
North China	\$25	Tls. 100, buyers
Union	\$100	\$850, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$215
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
West Point Building	\$50	44, sellers
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fs. 250	\$600, buyers
Raub	18/1 d.	\$84, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$2
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$187½, buyers
London Sugar	\$100	\$17, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$7, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	\$40, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$20, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$23½,
South China M. Post...	\$5	\$15
Steam Laundry Co...	\$25	\$24, sellers
	\$5	\$5½
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M & Co...	\$10	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$2½, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	3 sales & buy.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$140
United Asbestos	\$1	\$12½
Union Waterboat Co...	\$10	\$230
	\$10	\$10, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

24th March, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$960, buyers
National of China...	26	\$50
Russo-Chinese	(R187½)	Tls. 175
	T125	
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'tn	\$100	\$825, buyers
North-China	\$5	Tls. 100, buyers
Yangtze Ass. cn.	\$60	\$222½, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales
Hongkong Fire...	\$50	\$337½, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$107, sales
Shipping:—		
Indo-China { pref. }		Tls. 45
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	\$2.14.6
& Trading { pref. }	10	\$9.10.0
S'hai Tug & { ord. }		Tls. 50, buyers
Lighter ... { pref. }	T50	Tls. 52½, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48
Kochien Transport-		
ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 42½, sellers
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 85, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 162½, buyers
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 127½, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$112½, buyers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	21	\$8, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 18½
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 117½, sales
H'kong Investment...	\$100	\$93
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½
Wei-hai-wei	T25	Tls. 8, buyers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 102
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 115
International	T75	Tls. 92, sellers
Laou Kung Mow...	T100	Tls. 106, buyers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 385, sales
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 115
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14
China Flour Mill...	T50	Tls. 40, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper...	T100	Tls. 42½, buyers
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$10, sales
Maatschappij, &c.,		
in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 772, sales
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 130, sales
S'hai Waterworks...	\$20	Tls. 435, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$80, sellers
A. Butler Cement,		
Tile Works	50	Tls. 20, sales
Kalumpung Rubber	50	Tls. 105, buyers
S. E'ber Estates...	T100	Tls. 145, buyers
Eastern Fibre	\$10	
Shanghai Electric		
Construction	\$10	\$9.0.0, sales
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$23½, sales
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$52, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$9½, sales
Central Ordinary...	\$15	\$18, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co...	\$50	\$46, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$25½, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$19, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50.00	Tls. 90, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sales
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$50, sales
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 62, sales
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos	\$25	\$22, sellers
Dallas Horse Re-		
pository	T50	Tls. 25
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending March 24th, state:— There has been a good deal of business done since our last issue. The bulk of it has consisted of adjustments for the March Settlement, but at the same time in the speculative stocks a fair amount has been done for June delivery. Rates have in some cases fluctuated violently for March delivery, as shares have either been thrown on the market for adjustment or on the other hand buyers have had to purchase to cover. Banks.—H. & S Banks. Since our last nothing has been done. The market opened with sales at \$960, and in the absence of demand, declined to \$955. The price has again improve however to \$960 and at the close there are buyers. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/3½. Insurance.—A sale of Yangtzes is reported at \$220. Shares are now wanted at \$222½. North Chinas have buyers at Tls. 100. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas remain nominal at Tls. 45. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. A good business has been done in the Ordinary Tugs at Tls. 50, more shares are wanted. Preference shares are in demand at Tls. 52½. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Docks have been very flat all the week. Cash shares have changed hands at Tls. 85 and the rate for June is Tls. 88 nominal. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. There has been a large business done in this stock this week, the market opening at Tls. 175 for March and Tls. 179 for June. Very considerable fluctuations have been taken place since, which it has been almost impossible to follow, and it would be idle to give the various details. The final dividend of Tls. 6 was paid yesterday, and we quote rates at closing as Tls. 162 ex. dividend for March, and Tls. 167 ex. div. for June with sellers prevailing. Sugars.—Perak Sugars have been dealt in at Tls. 130. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. A sale is reported at Tls. 18½. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. After sales at Tls. 115 a good demand arose and shares are now wanted at Tls. 117½. Industrial.—As usual a fair amount of business has been done in Cotton stocks during the week. Ewos have declined from Tls. 121 March and Tls. 124 June to Tls. 117½ and Tls. 120 respectively. There are sellers at the close. Internationals are now quoted at Tls. 92 March and Tls. 96 for June with sellers. Laou Kung Mows.—There is no change to report. March shares have been dealt in at Tls. 106 and June at Tls. 109. Soy Chees have improved to Tls. 385. Maatschappij &c. in Langkat have had a sharp decline since last week. Rates at the commencement of the week were Tls. 810 March and Tls. 825 June, but there has been a gradual decline since, and yesterday shares were reported at Tls. 780 for March and the June rate is a nominal one of Tls. 810. Sumatras. Shares have been in strong demand all the week. We would quote the market at closing as Tls. 130 for March, Tls. 134 June nominal. Kalumpung Rubbers have improved to Tls. 105. Senawang. The market improved to Tls. 145 at which rate there are buyers. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. have been dealt in small lots at £8.10/- Miscellaneous.—There is nothing of any importance to report. Lands and Debentures.—No transactions have taken place this week.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	HONGKONG, April 2nd.
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand
	218
ON GERMANY.—	On demand
	177½
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand
	42½
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer
	130½
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer
	130½
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight
	74½
	Private, 30 days' sight
	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand
	84½
ON MANILA.—	On demand
	85½
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand
	74½
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand
	104½
ON HAI PHONG.—	On demand
	10½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand
	10 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand
	87
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.35
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.40
BAR SILVER, per oz.	23½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 2nd April.—There is a strong demand for tonnage particularly from the Yangtze ports, South Japan Coal ports and Saigon, and owing to scarcity of prompt medium sized carriers, rates are steadily advancing. From Saigon to this, 15½ cents last and 16 cents offering; to Singapore, 16 cents last and offering; to Philippines, 33 cents last and to North Coast Java, 24 cents last; to South Coast Japan, 24 cents has been accepted. From Wuhu to Swatow and Canton, 16/18 sandareena per picul has been paid, and more tonnage wanted. From Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents. Coal freight—ars firm. From South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$1.80 last and offering; to Singapore, \$3.00; to Hongay, \$1.75 last; to Canton, \$2.50. From Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March:—

ARRIVALS.

- 25, Flintshire, British str., from Shanghai.
- 25, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
- 26, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
- 26, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
- 26, Kamor, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 26, Nubia, British str., from London.
- 26, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 27, Amiral Hamdin, Fr. str., from Singapore.
- 27, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 27, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 27, Nicomedia, Ger. str., from Portland.
- 27, Prklat, German str., from Bangkok.
- 28, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 28, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 28, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 28, Mandal, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 28, Wuhu, British str., from Weihaiwei.
- 29, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
- 29, Belgravia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 29, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 29, Empire, British str., from Kobe.
- 29, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
- 29, Glenroy, British str., from Kobe.
- 29, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 29, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
- 29, Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 29, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 29, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 29, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
- 30, Benlawers, British str., from Yokohama.
- 30, Binhthuan, French str., from Saigon.
- 30, Devawongse, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 30, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
- 30, Gloria, American str., from Manila.
- 30, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 30, Indrani, British str., from New York.
- 30, Laisang, British str., from Singapore.
- 30, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 30, Palembang, Dutch str., from Singapore.
- 30, Spezia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 30, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., from Moji.
- 30, Yatshing, British str., from Wuhu.
- 31, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
- 31, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.
- 31, Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 31, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 31, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 31, Devanha, British str., from Bombay.
- 31, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 31, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
- 31, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.
- 31, Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.

April:—

- 1, Benalder, British str., from Singapore.
- 1, Hakata Maru, Japanese str., from S'pore.
- 1, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Kiangping, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
- 1, Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.
- 1, Peking, Swedish str., from Singapore.
- 1, Wakamiya Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.

March:—

DEPARTURES.

- 26, Goeben, German str., for Shanghai.
- 26, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 26, Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 26, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
- 26, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Singapore.
- 26, Taiwan, British str., for Chefoo.
- 26, Vorwaertes, Austrian str., for Singapore.
- 26, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 26, Zafro, British str., for Manila.
- 27, Bangkok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 27, Belgravia, German str., for Singapore.
- 27, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 27, Clara Jensen, German str., for Haiphong.
- 27, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.

- 27, Glenfarg, British str., for Amoy.
- 27, Kumerio, British str., for Manila.
- 27, Kwangse, British str., for Amoy.
- 27, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 27, Mongolia, American str., for Shanghai.
- 27, Petchaburi, German str., for Swatow.
- 27, Yingchow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Chipshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 28, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
- 28, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 28, Hupeh, British str., for Hongay.
- 28, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Pakhoi.
- 28, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 28, Nubia, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 29, Tjitodas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
- 30, Amiral Hamdin, Fr. str., for Shanghai.
- 30, Benlawers, British str., for London.
- 30, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 30, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
- 30, Flintshire, British str., for London.
- 30, Glenroy, British str., for London.
- 30, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 30, Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 30, Kamor, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
- 30, Merapi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
- 30, Nera, French str., for Europe.
- 30, Progress, Nor. str., for Vladivostock.
- 30, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 30, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 31, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 31, Empire, British str., for Sydney.
- 31, Gymeric, British str., for Europe.
- 31, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., for London.
- 31, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 31, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
- 31, Palembang, Dutch str., for Woosung.
- 31, Rigel, American str., for Manila.
- 31, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 31, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 31, Venus, American str., for Manila.

April:—

- 1, Ariaki Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 1, Belgravia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
- 1, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 1, Indrani, British str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Mandasan M., Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 1, Spezia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 1, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Laisang*, from Singapore, Mr. Gaskell.
- Per *Anhui*, from Shanghai, Messrs Walling and A. Gerault.
- Per *Laertes*, from Saigon, Captain Groves, Messrs Ord and Egan.
- Per *Cheongshing*, from Tientsin, &c., Mr and Mrs Clarkson and children, Messrs Dobie and Norton.
- Per *Linan*, from Shanghai, Messrs Galtow, F. W. Carey, Liedelle, J. A. Bashford, W. H. Kerr, J. H. Witchell.
- Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Revs. Cabanas, Jasto Sassim and Miss, Messrs J. H. Ellis, Skottowe, Thomas, Leihoff and Mercer.
- Per *Inaba Maru*, from Japan, &c., Mrs T. Matsumura & infant, Miss Haas, Dr. Jenkins, Messrs O. C. Ormsby, N. K. Davidson, F. F. E. Silva and Douglas.
- Per *Empire*, from Japan, Mr and Mrs Carter and child, Mr and Mrs Linclair, Mrs Antill, Misses Phillips, Wyene and Milne, Messrs Gilman and Esdale.
- Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mrs McCauby, Misses E. Murray, R. and M. Williams, Messrs Levy Wallace, Hadley, McGreer, Brinkman, Associo, R. and A. Cristal, V. and A. Wallace, and D. McCauby.
- Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs F. E. Lee, Mr and Mrs D. H. Bishop, Mr and Mrs Haldman, Mr and Mrs Sheets, Mr and Mrs Arteniano, Mr and Mrs W. H. Taylor, Mr and Mrs M. B. St. John, Miss J. Ridgway, Major Goodman, U.S.A., Lieut. J. C. Blanford, Lieut. E. W. Stoll, Messrs J. H. Lewis, H. Bundfuss, F. R. Bronsom, W. Martin, G. R. Henkel, H. J. Fagen, Soler, J. Haupt, A. P. Donoghue, J. Davis, L. Evans, A. H. Pascual, J. C. McCoy, S. C. Borrass, F. M. Wilson, J. H. Ruttonjee, I. C. Marchant, G. Antony, S. E. Shoino, Juan Llema, Custodio, J. Hayabuchi, D. Rubins and C. Corzetto.

Per *Borneo*, from Sandakan, Mr and Mrs Oldmann and servant, and Mr Yospp.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mrs Layte, Captain Braun, Messrs Hark, Arthen, James Cruikshank.

Per *Devanha*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr and Mrs Collett, child and infant, Rev. and Miss Scott, Messrs R. Johnson, H. Livesay, W. Johnson, Hamson and Hall; from Marseilles, Mrs Crayke, Mrs Fuller, Miss Fletcher, Major Cobbe, Messrs Gould, Couttney, Forbes and Hedderwick; from Port Said, Mrs and 2 Misses Christie and Mr Campbell; from Bombay, Admiral and Mrs Hewett, Mrs Elias, child and infant, Messrs Mowrawalla and W. Mitchell; from Colombo, Mr, Mrs and Miss Scott, Mrs and Miss Cox, Messrs R. H. Lightfoot, H. A. Martyns, D. Stewart and R. Hani; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Wennick, Mr and Mrs Hughes, Hon and Miss Forbes Simpell, Mrs F. Roath, Misses E. Falcott, Ford, Hume and Williams, Lt. Attwood, Messrs H. Bade, R. Pattenden, L. Lewis, Dierge, Coullie and F. A. Fisher; from Penang, Mr and Mrs Talcott and child, The Margass Linlithgow, Messrs H. S. Stewart, J. Talcott, Jr. and Crawford; for Shanghai, from London, Mr and Mrs Norris, Mrs Harris and infant, Rev. Thomas, Messrs Forsyth and Waucham; from Bombay, Dr. Andrew and Mrs Nakashima; from Singapore Mrs McGlashan, child, infant and servant, and Miss Feicenter; from London, for Kobe, Mr C. Calvert; for Yokohama, from London, Mr and Mrs Linford and child, Mr, Mrs and Miss Stephens, Messrs Dawson, W. R. Ricketts and Pieney; from Marseilles, Mr & Mrs Adlington, Miss Spevallier, Messrs Ellorrough and Fison; from Colombo, Mr Lloyd; from Singapore, Lt. Wood, Capt. Nangle and Mr Gould.

DEPARTED.

Per *Shinano Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mr and Mrs W. Howard, Mr and Mrs C. T. Cox, Mr and Mrs Jose R. Inchausti, Mr and Mrs S. Yamamoto, Mr and Mrs Geo. Davidson, Mr and Mrs Midzutani, Mrs J. Collins, Miss G. Corbett, Miss Peacock, Miss Orr, Lieut.-Com. N. Itokawa, Lieut.-Colonel Caviglia, Messrs McMaster, Strickland, W. Martin, G. R. Henkel, C. B. Bradley, F. B. Bronson, Jas Boecher, T. Skinner, T. Hayabuchi, J. Morita, Z. Tsuchiya, J. Nakashima, Y. Fujiwara and K. Koshino.

Per *Nera*, for Marseilles, &c., Mr and Mrs R. Campbell, Mrs Guillesteaux, Mrs Lachavotiere, Mrs Sandler, Mrs Liza, Mrs Leyte, Mrs Sans, Mrs L. Borells, Mrs Carola, Miss Jagorel, Messrs Dalas, Shaw, Isnard, Raymond, Furen, Leblanc, Lagrange, Rutdrkoff, Vincent, Suya, Gerault, Akujama, Velge, Ismael, Feldmann, Caboulet, Leon, Charlet, Journekin, Bremer, Florent, Giovanelli, Sigagneur, Dubois, Fond, Muller, Debaye, James, Ch. Esnault, Bon, R. Stevenson, H. Jackson, W. Cony, Rodrigues, T. Guay, D. E. Dimidrellis, Corey, Feliere and Soler.

Per *Inaba Maru*, for London, &c., Mr and Mrs E. J. Grist and 2 children, Mr and Mrs S. Yoshida, Mr and Mrs G. W. Mitchell, Mr and Mrs Jackson and 2 infants, Dr. and Mrs Marsh, 2 children and Governess, Mrs Kodama, Mrs J. Williamson and 2 children, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Halderman, Mrs W. Ichikawa and child, Misses (brien and Johnson, Capt. Dann, Dr. C. Y. Yen, Messrs K. Sonoda, J. H. Chalmers, Y. Namba, Kumai, Zippey, S. Takamashi, K. Ishida, S. Fujita, Scoll, W. and A. Thompson, Steedman, Johnson, W. S. Haldeman, Ede, W. Lingard and A. Manderfeld.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs C. Fox, Mr and Mrs L. Campbell, Mr and Mrs A. Basto, Mr and Mrs E. Francisco and 3 children, Mr and Mrs R. Guirant, Mrs Lesage, Mrs Villenz, Mrs Levy and son, Mrs Perrin, Miss Nainter, Major-General R. G. Broadwood, Dr. F. Muller, Captain C. J. Williams, Messrs Champmorin, A. L. Levy, Zafa, Toyosumi, Maurice, T. Tomi, B. Djvi, Tamizuchio, Guillaberl, Auzarde, Cruchee, Lucas, Fournier, Flipo, W. R. Diethelm, Burkhardt, J. W. Lohenzu, Rock, Latao, M. P. Beattie, Little, J. P. Lee, G. M. Beattie, Rosazza, A. Desille, Pokswitch, Largentaye and A. Kopp.

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